CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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India, EU review progress of strategic partnership P12



INS Surat reaches Muscat for naval exercise P13

City Hilights wishes readers and well-wishers a delightful Deepavali. Our offices will remain closed on Tuesday (Nov 10), hence there will be no edition on Nov 11.

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'WILL MAKE BDA PEOPLE-FRIENDLY'

BDA cuts regularisation fees, simplifies land allotment and plans special sale deed drive to benefit thousands of Bengaluru property owners.

BENGALURU

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Monday announced a series of citizen-centric initiatives as part of the Bangalore Development Authority's (BDA) 50th anniversary, including an opportunity for over one lakh residents to regularise houses built on BDA-acquired land by paying reduced charges.

The initiatives also include allotment of incentive sites to farmers who voluntarily surrendered land for BDA projects, regularisation of marginal land adjoining allotted sites and issuance of absolute sale deeds to more than 20,000 existing site owners.

December 17, 2026, is the deadline for applications under the announced schemes. "Our intention is to provide a legal guarantee of land ownership to people residing in Bengaluru," Shivakumar told reporters here.

Relief for unauthorized residential properties

Under the amended Section 38D of the BDA Act, people who constructed houses on BDA-acquired land before 2008 can apply for regularisation by paying charges based on the property's guidance value. The government has reduced the rates by half compared to the earlier provisions.

The revised charges are 5%, 12.5%, 20% and 25% of the guidance value, against the earlier rates of 10%, 25%, 40% and 50%, respectively, across the prescribed categories based on site dimensions. The earlier scheme, intended to benefit around one lakh property owners, had received only about 600 applications as people considered the charges too high. The three-month application period cannot be extended as it has been stipulated by law, he said.

Applicants must establish their possession through documents such as electricity and water bills or entries in the voters' list. Both online and offline application facilities would be available, and the BDA would publicise the areas covered by the scheme, he said.

Incentive site for every acre surrendered

The second initiative concerns farmers who voluntarily surrendered land without litigation for BDA projects, particularly the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout. They will be eligible for one incentive site for every acre surrendered, subject to applicable rules. He asked eligible landowners to submit applications by December 17. There would be no lucky draw for the allotment, and sites would be provided wherever available, including in the Kempegowda Layout.

People with marginal government land

Under the third initiative, people with marginal government land measuring up to 600 square feet adjoining their BDA-allotted sites can apply for its allotment by paying the applicable guidance value. December 17 would be the last date for applications under this category.

Absolute sale deeds to over 20,000 site owners

The fourth initiative is aimed at providing absolute sale deeds to more than 20,000 site owners who currently possess only lease-cum-sale deeds issued by the BDA or the erstwhile City Improvement Trust Board (CITB). Eligible owners whose lease periods have expired can apply for absolute sale deeds without paying any additional amount, except nominal stamp paper charges.

BDA @ 50



> BDA has completed 50 years. We are exploring new ideas to make Bengaluru a better-planned city and transform the BDA into a people-friendly institution.
>
> DK Shivakumar, CM

AMNESTY SCHEMES AND FEATURES

1. **Limits of judicial orders**: Excessive court orders may lead to non-compliance rather than solving pollution.
2. **Absolute sale deeds**: The initiative also includes the issuance of absolute sale deeds to more than 20,000 existing site owners who lacked formal titles.
3. **Farmer incentives**: Incentive sites will be allotted to farmers who voluntarily surrendered their land for BDA projects in the past.
4. **Marginal land regularisation**: Provisions are included to regularise small marginal strips of land immediately adjoining already allotted sites.

RESTRICTIONS & ENFORCEMENT

Exclusions: The amnesty does not cover open spaces, public roads, or vacant government lands illegally occupied.

Verification: Applicants must prove long-term possession using official records such as electricity bills, water bills, or voter list entries.

Crackdown on industrial plots: The BDA is simultaneously issuing notices to industrial plot allottees, who failed to build factories or utilise their parcels 10 to 15 years after allotment, warning them to develop the land or surrender it.

Modi dials Zelenskyy, pushes for end to Russia-Ukraine war

In a telephone conversation with Ukrainian President, Modi reiterates India's support for dialogue and diplomacy to end the conflict.

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday held a telephone conversation with Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy, during which the two leaders discussed the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, recent diplomatic developments and ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

In a post on X, PM Modi described the conversation as productive and said the two leaders reviewed their wide-ranging bilateral cooperation and agreed to further strengthen India-Ukraine ties. He said he thanked Zelenskyy for sharing his perspectives on the conflict, its humanitarian aspects and various efforts to restore peace.

Modi reiterated India's commitment to contributing in every possible way towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict. As per the PMO, he also reaffirmed New Delhi's consistent position that the conflict must be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy and conveyed India's readiness to contribute to all efforts aimed at a peaceful resolution.

Zelenskyy, meanwhile, said he had briefed PM Modi on the latest diplomatic developments and ongoing preparations for a meeting in Abu Dhabi. He said Ukraine was preparing on every item on the agenda and called on Russia to demonstrate a similar willingness to de-escalate the conflict.

The Ukrainian president also said the two leaders discussed India's potential role in establishing food corridors amid disruptions to grain exports through the Black Sea.

According to Zelenskyy, Modi had said India was ready to mediate in establishing such corridors, an effort Kyiv hopes will continue.

"It is important that India identify what steps it can take and what dialogue it can pursue with other leaders to help bring the war to an end. Food security could be one such area," he wrote on X.

He also highlighted the wider economic and humanitarian consequences of blocked maritime routes.



> Glad to have had a productive telephone conversation with President Zelenskyy. We reviewed our wide-ranging bilateral cooperation and agreed to further strengthen India-Ukraine ties.
>
> Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Leaders' dialogues in brief

Reaffirmed stance: Modi reiterates India's "human-centric approach" and consistent position that the war must be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy.

Readiness to help: Modi conveys India's readiness to contribute to all international efforts aimed at restoring peace.

Abu Dhabi peace talks: Zelenskyy briefs Modi on recent diplomatic developments and ongoing preparations for a upcoming meeting involving Russian, Ukrainian, and U.S. officials in Abu Dhabi.

Food corridors & grain security: Zelenskyy and Modi discuss potential Indian mediation in establishing food and grain corridors through the Black Sea to ease global supply disruptions.

Broader context

Upcoming SCO Summit: Zelenskyy noted that India could convey the need for an immediate ceasefire and diplomatic movement during upcoming global meetings, such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Tianjin.

US and regional traces: The conversation coincides with renewed US-brokered discussions in the UAE and ongoing diplomatic balancing by New Delhi, which has maintained channels with both Moscow and Kyiv.

BBP gets ₹38 crore tourist-friendly upgrade push



BENGALURU

Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Monday inaugurated a series of tourist-friendly development works and new facilities worth Rs 38 crore at Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) and, aimed at further strengthening wildlife conservation, animal welfare and the amenities available to visitors.

New electric vehicles were flagged off to make rides easier for visitors. He also inaugurated the newly-built administrative office building 'Adavi' along with a live feed unit, a central nursery and the park's renovated main entrance gate, and started a new quarantine block.

A new zoo shop and the Suvarnamukhi cafe were opened for visitors, and a quarters for forest staff. Enclosures for wolves, cheetahs, emus and rheas, and pheasants were also opened.

Facilities inaugurated

- Newly-constructed administrative office 'Adavi'
- New eco-friendly electric vehicles for visitor rides inside the park.
- Enclosures for wolves, cheetahs, emus, rheas, and pheasants.
- Named a hippopotamus block and a baby hippopotamus "Sameeksha" in memory of Dr Sameeksha Reddy, a trainee veterinary doctor who tragically died while caring for a hippopotamus in Shivamogga.
- Suvarna elephant care centre, a viewing tower and dedicated facility focused on the health, care, and management of elephants.
- Live feed and a newly-operational quarantine block for animals.
- New residential quarters for forest department personnel.

Visitor amenities & retail

- Renovated main entrance gate
- Suvarnamukhi Café (also referred to as Suvarnam)
- A new zoo merchandise shop featuring custom animal prints on T-shirts, bags, and souvenirs

Public servant in judicial custody for over 48 hrs deemed suspended: SC

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday held that a public servant who remains in judicial custody for more than 48 hours is deemed to be under suspension, and no separate order is required to give effect to the provision.

A bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and Manmohan made the observation while restoring the bail granted to Vishwajeet Singh, administrator of the Sadar Hospital in Bihar's Samastipur, who was arrested in a bribery case.

Singh was accused of demanding a bribe of Rs 4,000 to clear the pending wages of Rs 36,421 due to a contractual worker. The apex court set aside a July 1, 2026, order of the Patna High Court cancelling Singh's bail nearly a year after it was granted by the sessions court.

While allowing his appeal, the SC said the amount allegedly demanded as a bribe was not a relevant consideration in deciding a bail plea. It observed that the high court could have disagreed with the sessions court's description of the amount as "paltry" without cancelling the bail. However, the bench flagged what it described as a "disturbing feature" concerning Singh's service status after his arrest.

Noting that Singh had remained in judicial custody for 15 days, Pardiwala said, "Once a public servant is arrested and remains in judicial custody for more than 48 hours, there is a deemed suspension. Being a public servant, he could be said to have been placed under deemed suspension. No specific order is required to be passed in this regard."

Fire scare: Rockets, aerial crackers banned in Mumbai till Nov 25

MUMBAI

In the wake of multiple fire incidents across the city, the Mumbai Disaster Management Authority on Monday banned the bursting of rockets and aerial firecrackers in the metropolis until November 25.

According to the order issued by the authority, the restriction covers all residential buildings, rooftops, balconies, and slum pockets.

Three major fires were reported in different parts of the city on Diwali night alone, gutting several huts, shops, a garage, and parts of a commercial building.

The order, signed by additional municipal commissioner Prajakta Verma-Lavangare, cited the risk posed by rockets and other firecrackers that fly into the sky and land on rooftops, balconies, windows and other combustible materials, potentially triggering fires.

'Focus on polls': DKS dismisses talk of friction with Siddu

BENGALURU

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Monday denied reports of differences with his predecessor Siddaramaiah, asserting that there was neither a major nor a minor disagreement between them.

Responding to reporters' questions about an alleged strained relationship and reports that the two leaders had not been speaking to each other, Shivakumar said certain people were attempting to create such an impression.

"He (Siddaramaiah) is our leader but some people are presenting different versions of things to all of you. Certain big people have also been making statements. I discussed various issues to clarify matters to him and apprise him of the relevant developments," he said.

Asked about reports of a minor disagreement between the two leaders, Shivakumar said, "There is no major disagreement, no major disagreement, and no minor disagreement either. Some people from the Opposition have been sitting around trying to create such an impression. I am not referring to you or the media, but certain others."



According to him, criticism and opposition were part of politics and necessary for clean politics.

"In politics, there should be critics and opponents. It is only when they are around that people like us can practise clean politics," he said.

BIG BLOW TO 2ND TERM

Athletics legend PT Usha loses IOA SOM election

Anju Bobby George, Saina Nehwal among 4 women make the cut.

NEW DELHI

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president and athletics legend P T Usha suffered a setback in the Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit (SOM) elections on Monday, failing to secure one of the four positions in the women's category.

Former athletes world athletics medallist in long jump Anju Bobby George (athletics), India hockey captain Rani Rampal, world champion in archery Dola Banerjee and Olympic medallist Saina Nehwal (badminton) were elected.

Anju Bobby George topped the poll with 53 votes, followed by Rani Rampal with 50, Dola Banerjee with 45 and Saina Nehwal with 43. Usha, a nominated member of the Rajya Sabha, received 40 votes, while former basketball player Anitha Paul Durai secured six votes. A total of 80 votes were polled.

The outcome comes ahead of the December 5 elections to the IOA Executive Council for the 2026-2030 term, in which the association will elect its next leadership.

The four male SOM representatives, — Olympic medallists Gagan Narang (shooting), Yogeshwar Dutt (wrestling) and Vijender Singh (boxing), and former table tennis player Kamlesh Mehta — had already been elected unopposed after the other contenders withdrew.

The SOM representatives will become members of the IOA annual general assembly and will be eligible to vote and contest in the December 5 elections. One male and one female SOM representative will also have a place in the Executive Council.

Usha, who became the first woman to head the IOA when she was elected president in December 2022, is now facing a changed electoral landscape.

Election results (Women's SOM category)

Athlete	Sport / discipline	Votes received
Anju Bobby George	Athletics (Long Jump)	53
Rani Rampal	Hockey	50
Dola Banerjee	Archery	45
Saina Nehwal	Badminton	43
PT Usha	Athletics (track & field)	40

Impact on presidency

Per the IOA Constitution, presidential candidates must be an elected SOM or General Assembly member. Without a nomination from a National Sports Federation (NSF), PT Usha is barred from seeking a second term on December 5.

QUICK READ

Hasina seeks new passport to return to Bangladesh

NEW DELHI

Former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Monday sought a new passport and national identity card from the Bangladesh high commission in New Delhi to facilitate her planned return home from self-exile in India in December, a move dismissed hours later by Dhaka, which reiterated its demand for her extradition. Hasina (79) has been living in India since her government was ousted in a student-led uprising in August 2024. She has insisted in several occasions that she intends to return to Bangladesh in December despite being sentenced to death over her government's crackdown on protesters. The former premier confirmed to media that her London-based lawyers had written to the Bangladesh high commission seeking a new passport and national identity card, and shared a copy of the letter emailed to the mission on Monday. The request marks the clearest step by Hasina so far to act on her plan to return to Bangladesh.

RaGa repeats debate dare after PM Modi's 'Dimagi Naxal' jibe

NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday hit back at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his "Dimagi Naxals" jibe while addressing CRPF personnel, saying the jawans had not bought his "lies" and reiterating his challenge to the PM to debate him on who was anti-national and controlled by foreign forces. The Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha said that the prime minister "called us Naxals" and asserted that after the debate, Modi "won't have the guts to stand in front of a single jawan again". In his post on X, addressed to the CRPF personnel, Gandhi said, "Dear @crpfindia, Your faces said it all: you didn't buy the PM's lies." "He called us Naxals. My challenge stands. Let him debate me on who is anti-national and who is controlled by foreign forces. Any time, any place. My guarantee: after the debate, the PM won't have the guts to stand in front of a single jawan again," Gandhi said.

Quick Read

Two killed in hit-and-run, driver arrested

CH NEWS, DEVANAHALLI

Two local youths, Mithun and Kanaka, were killed instantly last night when a speeding Toyota Fortuner struck their motorcycle in Devanahalli town. The victims, who earned their livelihood by supplying eggs and chicken to roadside eateries along the highway, died on the spot. The driver fled the scene, but a crucial breakthrough occurred when the car's number plate detached at the collision site. Alerted authorities utilized this evidence to launch a cinematic pursuit, with Vijayapura police successfully intercepting and seizing the vehicle within the jurisdiction of the Chikkaballapura Traffic Police Station, taking the accused driver into custody for interrogation.

HC refuses to quash black magic fraud case

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court expressed concern over ritualistic fraud, dismissing a petition to quash criminal proceedings against Lakshmamma, wife of prime accused Nagaraj, and two real estate agents. Justice Suraj Govindaraj rejected arguments regarding their absence from the initial FIR. The case stems from a Bengaluru woman's complaint that Nagaraj exploited her following her husband's death in 2009. Falsely claiming divine possession, he allegedly coerced her into selling five properties, stealing 450 grams of gold and crores in cash. Noting prima facie conspiracy evidence, the court ruled the accused must face a full trial.

IMD forecasts rain and thunderstorms in state

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The India Meteorological Department has forecast a mix of sunny and cloudy weather across Karnataka, with rain expected in Bengaluru towards the evening. Regions including the coastal, Malenadu, and southern interior districts such as Mysuru, Kodagu, and Mandya will likely experience light showers or localized rainfall, while northern interior districts remain dry. In Bengaluru, where temperatures are expected to range between 19ºC and 28ºC, evening commuters and motorists are advised to exercise caution due to possible thunderstorms. Authorities have also urged farmers to verify local forecasts before planning agricultural tasks.

Bengaluru Metro Pink Line ready for launch

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate Namma Metro's Pink Line stretch, pushing Bengaluru's transit network past 100 kilometers to ease massive traffic congestion.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



A decorated Namma Metro train.

Public transit infrastructure in Karnataka's capital is set to achieve a historic milestone this week. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the first operational section of Namma Metro's highly anticipated Pink Line on November 13, marking a major leap forward in the city's efforts to combat severe urban traffic congestion.

The newly completed phase features a 7.5-kilometer elevated stretch extending from Kalena Agrahara on Bannerghatta Road to Tavarekere. This initial rollout brings six key stations into service: Kalena Agrahara, Hulimavu, IIM Bangalore, J.P. Nagar 4th Phase, Jayadeva Hospital, and Tavarekere. These stations will provide residents across South Bengaluru with a faster, more reliable travel alternative, significantly easing daily commutes along the busy Bannerghatta Road corridor.

A standout feature of this new stretch is the multi-level interchange facility at Jayadeva Hospital Metro Station, which connects the Pink Line directly to the Yellow Line. This integration allows passengers traveling toward major employment hubs like Electronic City and Bommasandra to switch lines effortlessly. Combined with existing Yellow-to-Green Line connections at R.V. Road, the network expansion creates a seamless web of transit options across southern neighborhoods.

When fully completed, the entire 21.26-kilometer Pink Line will connect Kalena Agrahara in South Bengaluru to Nagawara in the north across 18 stations, featuring both elevated and underground segments. Crucially, the launch of this 7.5-kilometer section pushes Bengaluru's total operational metro network past the 100-kilometer mark, cementing the city's position among India's largest mass rapid transit systems. Looking ahead, Minister Krishna Byre Gowda has set an ambitious target to expand the overall Namma Metro network to 170 kilometers by 2027.

Political clash erupts over metro credit

Political tensions are flaring in the city ahead of the Namma Metro Pink Line inauguration. Leaders from the ruling Congress and opposition BJP are locked in a bitter war of words over funding and credit for the rapid transit project. BJP MP Tejasvi Surya argued that central funding expanded the network significantly since 2014, adding that central sovereign guarantees make massive international loans possible. In sharp contrast, Congress MLA Dinesh Gundu Rao hit back online, claiming the state actually shoulders the vast majority of the financial burden. Both parties continue trading accusations over project delays.

HC orders probe into subsidized rice diversion

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has declined to quash an ongoing police First Information Report (FIR) registered against a wholesale godown manager in connection with the suspected illegal diversion of subsidized ration rice. The ruling stems from a petition filed by Narasimhegowda K.M., manager of a Karnataka Food and Civil Supplies Corporation (KFCSC) wholesale outlet near the RMC Yard in Yeshwantpur, Bengaluru.

Karnataka High Court refused to quash an FIR against a wholesale godown manager over suspected ration rice diversion, ordering a deep electronic server log investigation.

The case originated on September 17, 2025, when officials from the Department of Food and Civil Supplies conducted a surprise inspection at the warehouse. During the raid, authorities discovered 280 bags of ration rice earmarked for distribution through fair-price shops being loaded onto a transport truck. While valid paperwork covered 200 bags, documentation for the remaining 80 bags was missing at the time the inspection began at 10:47 AM. Investigators noted that a supplementary bill was generated by the manager only after officials arrived.

Server glitch claim

Appearing before a bench presided over by Justice Suraj Govindaraj, the petitioner's legal counsel argued that the delayed billing resulted from a technical server malfunction within the Food Department's network. They further contended that because the vehicle had not yet departed the warehouse premises, the incident could not legally constitute smuggling or illegal diversion.

However, the High Court dismissed the petition, emphasizing that the timing of the document generation raises critical questions that warrant deep judicial scrutiny. The bench directed investigating officers to conduct a comprehensive inquiry, instructing them to scrutinize electronic database records and server log files to verify whether the technical glitch claims are genuine or a retroactive cover for illicit transport attempts.

Consequently, the RMC Yard Police Station will proceed with a thorough investigation under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Cloudnine Hospital denies child negligence claims

CH NEWS, BENGALURU


Cloudnine Hospital representatives address the media.

Cloudnine Hospital management has formally and categorically rejected allegations of medical negligence surrounding the critical condition of one-year-old Shayana, who remains in a coma following a medical procedure. Declaring that a coordinated smear campaign is unfairly targeting its medical staff, the hospital administration insisted that no professional malpractice occurred during the child's care.

According to hospital statements, the infant was initially admitted following an accidental ear injury sustained while playing at home. Medical professionals advised the family that the patient needed to remain on a completely empty stomach before anesthesia could be safely administered for treatment. However, hospital officials stated that the parents disregarded these fasting guidelines and fed the infant milk prior to the procedure. This oversight reportedly triggered a severe aspiration complication, resulting in sudden oxygen deprivation and subsequent neurological distress.

Furthermore, hospital representatives emphasized that the anesthesia was administered by a qualified senior specialist possessing 14 years of professional experience in the field. Addressing the child's current medical status, attending physicians reported that the young patient is showing signs of recovery, though medical experts noted that considerable time will be necessary to determine the full extent of neurological improvement.

In response to escalating tensions at the medical facility, the management confirmed they were legally compelled to file a First Information Report (FIR) against individuals who reportedly stormed the premises, created public disturbances, and engaged in physical assaults against staff members. The incident has drawn intense local scrutiny, prompting calls for calm as authorities continue to review the circumstances surrounding the infant's medical emergency and the subsequent confrontations at the hospital grounds.

Investigation and context

The unexpected medical emergency sparked high tensions at the facility. Families and protestors confronted hospital authorities, demanding accountability for the child's critical condition. Police intervention became necessary to restore order after angry crowds reportedly forced their way inside and clashed with workers.

Medical experts generally note that aspiration during anesthesia poses severe risks because food or liquid entering the lungs can severely block oxygen flow. Authorities are reviewing the timeline and medical records to determine the exact sequence of events while the child continues to receive ongoing medical treatment under hospital supervision.

Police recover bodies of all seven murder victims

CH NEWS, BENGALURU


The family at the centre of the seven-murder case, in earlier photographs.

Law enforcement agencies investigating the horrific murder of seven members of a single family have reached a major milestone, successfully locating all remaining victims after a massive, multi-district manhunt spanning across Karnataka and neighboring regions.

According to police reports released on Monday, the grim search concluded when two additional bodies were discovered in the remote and densely forested terrain of Shiradi Ghat. Authorities confirmed that these final recovered remains belong to the victims Shankar and Nalini. Upon receiving the breakthrough notification, specialized investigative teams from the Rajajinagar Police Station, accompanied by an expert Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) unit, immediately rushed from Bengaluru to the rugged location to secure the crime scene, gather vital forensic evidence, and conduct preliminary inspections before transporting the remains.

This discovery brings the total recovery count to all seven victims, following earlier coordinated operations that located individual bodies across diverse geographic locations. The body of seven-year-old Puneeth was previously recovered at the foothills of Nandi Hills in the Chikkaballapur district, with his funeral rites having already taken place at the Harishchandra Ghat in Rajajinagar. Subsequently, search parties found the bodies of Sunitha and Rupavathi in Salem, Tamil Nadu, while the remains of the couple Shivakumar and Divya were discovered near the foothills of Chamundi Hill in Mysuru.

Police administration sources indicate that the recovered bodies from Mysuru, Salem, and Shiradi Ghat were to be formally handed over to grieving relatives on Monday. Family members and community representatives have coordinated plans to perform the final collective funeral rites for the remaining victims at a single designated location to honor the family.

Meanwhile, investigators continue to compile evidence, review testimonies from the prime suspect Indushekhar, and finalize the comprehensive chargesheet as the state reels from the unprecedented tragedy.

Chilling details emerge in seven-member family murder probe

Police investigating the horrific seven-member family murder case have uncovered crucial evidence regarding how the prime accused, Indushekhar, prepared for the crime. Investigators revealed that Indushekhar went on a targeted shopping trip beforehand to secure materials needed to cover up the massacre.

According to police findings, Indushekhar purchased body-packing materials and chemical supplies meant to clean up bloodstains from local shops in the surrounding area. Furthermore, when specific cleaning agents and packaging items were unavailable locally, he traveled directly to commercial hubs in Yeshwantpur and the RMC Yard to procure them.

Authorities have visited these stores, secured vital CCTV footage, and recorded statements from local shop owners and staff to map out his preparations.

COMPLETE RECOVERY LOCATIONS

PUNEETH (7)
Foothills of Nandi Hills, Chikkaballapur. Funeral held on Saturday (Nov 7) at Harishchandra Ghat, Bengaluru

SUNITHA & RUPAVATHI
Salem, Tamil Nadu. To be handed over to families on Monday

SHIVAKUMAR & DIVYA
Foothills of Chamundi Hill, Mysuru. Post-mortems completed; handover on Monday

SHANKAR & NALINI
Shiradi Ghat. Discovered on Monday (Nov 9); FSL inspection underway

INTIMIDATION TACTICS ESCALATE

Knife parcel, poster war: Congress-BJP clash intensifies

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



Posters put up in the poster war between the Congress and the BJP.

State politics have descended into a bitter and volatile confrontation as escalating animosity between the ruling Congress and the opposition BJP spills over into open hostility, highlighted by intimidation tactics, threatening parcels, and a widespread poster war across Karnataka.

The crisis intensified significantly after an anonymous package containing sharp weapons, including knives and daggers, was delivered directly to the residence of senior BJP leader Chalavadi Narayanaswamy. The brazen delivery has triggered widespread political outrage and deep concern among opposition leaders over safety and escalating partisan aggression.

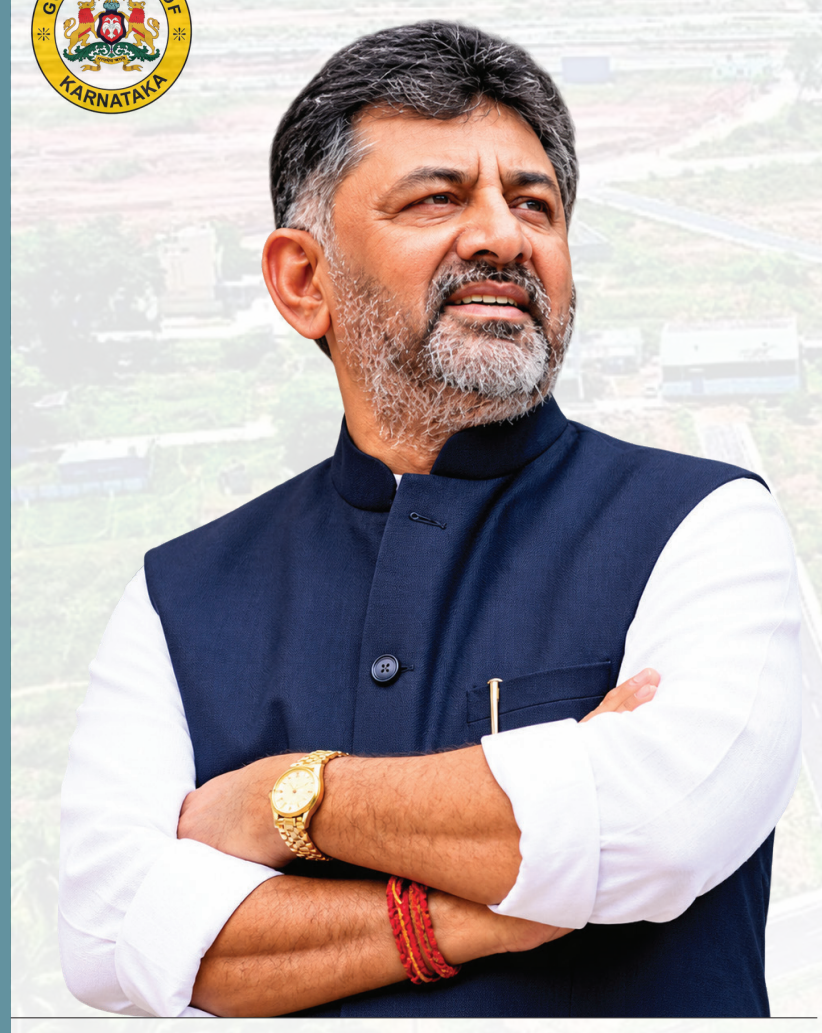
Condemning the act, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka rushed to Narayanaswamy's home to extend personal solidarity and party backing. Launching a scathing critique against the ruling administration, Ashoka publicly challenged the ruling party, questioning why cowardly and clandestine tactics involving weapons were being deployed instead of engaging in straightforward political debate. In response to the terrifying incident, Chalavadi Narayanaswamy formally filed a police complaint targeting National Students' Union of India (NSUI) activists, explicitly accusing the ruling Congress party of promoting and sheltering a culture of goondaism and intimidation.

Simultaneously, a retaliatory "poster war" has gripped several major cities across the state, deepening the partisan rift. Congress workers escalated tensions by pasting provocative posters directly outside the residence of BJP State President B.Y. Vijayendra in Shivamogga, as well as outside the home of veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa in Bengaluru.

BJP leaders have universally condemned these targeted demonstrations, with B.Y. Vijayendra dismissing the strategy as desperate and cheap politics while demanding swift punitive action from law enforcement against the perpetrators. In counter-tactics across various neighborhoods of Bengaluru, Youth Congress members launched their own display of political messaging, plastering supportive posters for Home Minister Priyank Kharge alongside biting satirical material aimed at Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy.

Fact summary

KNIFE PARCEL	Bengaluru: Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, R. Ashoka
POSTERS	Bengaluru & Shivamogga: B.Y. Vijayendra, B.S. Yediyurappa, Priyank Kharge



Chief Minister
Shri D.K. Shivakumar
announces four key initiatives for Landowners, Homeowners and BDA Site Allottees.

This Deepavali, BDA Opens New Doors for You!

50 Years of BDA. Four New Opportunities for You.

As BDA celebrates its Golden Jubilee, Chief Minister Shri D.K. Shivakumar announces four important initiatives for homeowners, landowners and BDA site allottees.

Application Deadline: 17 December 2026

1 Have a Home? Make It Legally Yours.

Good news for families living in homes built before 10 July 2008 on BDA-acquired land.

You now have an opportunity to regularise your eligible home, with **regularisation charges reduced by 50%!**

Eligibility conditions apply.

For Application Please Scan the QR Code

2 Have a BDA Site? You Could Get More Space!

Is there an unused strip of BDA land beside or behind your site?

You may now apply to have that adjoining land allotted to you, subject to eligibility and availability.

BDA will examine applications and initiate allotment proceedings within 60 days, as per the rules.

For Application Please Scan the QR Code

3 Still Waiting for Your Final Sale Deed?

Your long wait could soon be over!

If the lease period of your BDA-allotted site has ended but you have not obtained your Absolute Sale Deed, here's your opportunity.

BDA is organising a Special Sale Deed Mela, expected to benefit around 20,000 site allottees.

BDA will initiate the registration process within 60 days, subject to verification and applicable rules.

For Application Please Scan the QR Code

4 Gave Your Land for Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout? Here's More Good News

Your contribution to Bengaluru's development brings another opportunity.

If you voluntarily gave your land for Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout and received cash compensation, you may also be eligible for **an incentive site from BDA.**

Allotment will be made to eligible landowners in accordance with the Government's special incentive scheme and applicable rules.

Visit the BDA website for eligibility details and application.



Dr. G. Parameshwara
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Don't Miss This Once-in-50-Years Opportunity!

No Middlemen. No Brokers | Connect Directly with BDA



Shri N.A. Haris
Chairman, Bangalore Development Authority
& MLA, Shanthinagar Assembly Constituency

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CH Observer

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Civic negligence is putting Bengalureans at risk across multiple neighborhoods, as unbarricaded dug-up roads in Frazer Town and Lingarajpuram threaten commuters with slipping rock slabs and open hazards. Meanwhile, uncollected garbage piles up right next to a playschool near Kumara Park West, drawing sharp criticism from frustrated residents demanding immediate administrative action to clean up these dangerous civic failures.

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Half-done road works left in the open without any barricade round them are a hazard for commuters. In front of GK Vale, Frazer Town.



The road is dug up, but the rock slabs are left in such an unscientific way that they could slip and slide down. Citizens urge that public works at least be properly barricaded and marked. Lingarajpuram bus stop.



Garbage left unattended near Papagoya Micro School on W Park Road, Kumara Park West, Seshadripuram. It lies right next to a park and a playschool, making the place very unhygienic.

KSPCB report reveals high water contamination

Karnataka's severe drought and unchecked pollution threaten vital waterways, prompting urgent warnings and strict regulatory crackdowns statewide.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

As Karnataka battles severe drought conditions, environmental experts and recent state assessments have issued urgent warnings regarding widespread river pollution, driven primarily by unchecked sewage discharge, industrial effluents, and critically depleted dissolved oxygen levels across major waterways.

According to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board's (KSPCB) August 2026 assessment of 66 monitoring locations across 14 polluted stretches, contamination is no longer confined to isolated pockets. Waterways such as the Dakshina Pinakini and Arkavathi exhibit alarming biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and soaring faecal-coliform counts, signaling extreme organic pollution and pathogen risks. Hydrogeologist K.C. Subhash Chandra noted that natural urban drains, or rajakaluves, have increasingly transformed into perpetual sewage conduits, compounding water scarcity issues and threatening groundwater reserves.

Experts emphasize that domestic sewage contributes the highest volume of waste, while industrial discharges, particularly from areas like the Peenya industrial hub that lack functional common effluent treatment plants, worsen toxicity. Water conservationist Vishwanath S. argued that long-term remediation requires enforcing the "polluter pays" principle, mandating that households and industries fund proper wastewater collection, conveyance, and treatment. Without realistic pricing for water and wastewater management, municipal bodies will continue to face funding deficits and infrastructure bottlenecks.

KSPCB officials cited persistent hurdles, including budget constraints, fragmented underground drainage networks, and coordination challenges across roughly 270 urban local bodies. While phased infrastructure projects and the construction of sewage treatment plants (STPs) are underway, with priority given to major cities like Bengaluru, Mysuru, and Mangaluru, officials estimate that comprehensive restoration will take at least two years. In response to mounting violations, the board has stepped up enforcement, filing 42 criminal cases under the Water Act against recalcitrant polluters in magistrate courts.



Waste dumped along the banks of a river.

Challenges in cleanup and enforcement

Infrastructure gaps
Inadequate underground drainage networks and delayed funding cycles constrain sewage treatment plant (STP) rollouts across about 270 urban local bodies.

Phased execution
Officials state that projects must be prioritized across major cities like Bengaluru, Mysuru, and Mangaluru, with completion expected over the next two years.

Legal action
The pollution control board has shifted from levying basic fines to filing criminal cases under the Water Act against severe polluters.

The polluter-pays principle
Experts argue that long-term restoration requires proper wastewater pricing, where households and institutions pay for collection, conveyance, and treatment.

Slum report highlights entitlement and sanitation woes

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A newly released legal assessment report has brought to light the severe systemic and administrative hurdles endured by marginalized residents living across urban slums near Bengaluru's Jayanagar neighborhood, exposing widespread difficulties in securing fundamental welfare entitlements, essential sanitation, and equitable policing.

The comprehensive report was compiled by the Alliance School of Law in partnership with MAARGA, a local non-governmental organization, drawing empirical data and testimonies from five legal aid camps conducted throughout October. The findings underscore that vulnerable populations, particularly widows, senior citizens, and inter-state migrant families residing in localities such as Ragiguda, Tilak Nagar, Corporation Colony, Arasu Colony, and Indira Gandhi Colony, frequently encounter bureaucratic blockades when attempting to obtain mandatory caste, income, and death certificates.

Administrative friction disproportionately impacts residents with roots in neighboring Tamil Nadu, who report persistent hurdles during paperwork processing. Furthermore, elderly citizens and widows highlighted systemic distress caused by the abrupt cancellation or freezing of monthly pensions, forcing them to shuttle endlessly between municipal and state offices. Sanitation emerged as another critical crisis: residents in Arasu Colony noted that they rely heavily on public lavatories that levy a fee of Rs 10 per use and close by 6:00 PM, leaving communities without basic overnight hygiene access.

During a public hearing on October 31, residents also raised alarming concerns regarding local safety and policing practices. Professor Sivamanithan S. of the Alliance School of Law noted that participants reported instances where law enforcement officers allegedly demanded arbitrary sums ranging from Rs 3,000 to Rs 4,000 to resolve minor neighborhood disputes brought to local stations.

"The first barrier to justice is not the courtroom but the counter: a certificate refused without reason, a pension stopped without notice," the legal aid report concluded, emphasizing that the heaviest burdens fall on society's most vulnerable demographics. Authors of the study recommended that many of these grievances could be resolved administratively without formal litigation, urging the District Legal Services Authority to spearhead inter-departmental coordination to streamline welfare delivery.



Homes along a canal in a city slum.

A new legal report exposes severe administrative hurdles, pension freezes, and sanitation crises faced by marginalized residents in Bengaluru's Jayanagar urban slums

BENGALURU AIR QUALITY PLAGUED BY PM2.5 SPIKE

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Environmental data analysis released by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) has revealed a significant spike in fine particulate pollution across Bengaluru, with the city experiencing a more than threefold increase in days marked by elevated PM2.5 concentrations this October compared to the same period last year.

According to the analysis, the number of days recording PM2.5 concentrations between 30 and 60 micrograms per cubic meter surged from just five days last October to 16 days this year, representing a substantial jump of 11 days, or a 220% increase. While India's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) set the daily PM2.5 limit at 60 micrograms per cubic meter, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends a stricter daily safe guideline of 15 micrograms per cubic meter.

City-based air quality experts attribute the worsening particulate suspension largely to deficient rainfall during the ongoing northeast monsoon season. Meteorological data from the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Management Centre indicates that Bengaluru Urban and Bengaluru South registered rainfall deficits of 18% and 19% respectively, while Bengaluru Rural recorded a sharp 29% deficit. Experts explain that reduced precipitation diminishes "wet deposition," the natural process by which rain washes airborne pollutants out of the atmosphere, allowing particulate matter to linger longer in the lower troposphere.

Beyond seasonal weather patterns, environmental analysts emphasize that relentless vehicular emissions remain a primary driver of urban air pollution, with severe particulate hotspots concentrated around major traffic intersections. While Bengaluru has historically maintained better air quality than other Indian megacity counterparts, largely assisted by its high elevation of 920 meters above mean sea level, which generates faster surface winds to disperse pollutants, experts caution that this geographic advantage is rapidly diminishing. Without stringent emission controls and sustainable transport policies, unchecked vehicular growth threatens to push the city's air quality toward irreversible degradation.



A traffic policeman wears a mask on duty.

Days of PM2.5 at 30-60 micrograms per cubic meter in October

LAST YEAR	THIS YEAR
5 days	16 days, up 220%

Cops fill potholes as GBA falters

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



Traffic police patch potholes on the road.

Highlighting the persistent failure of municipal bodies to maintain urban infrastructure, traffic police officers in Bengaluru were forced to step out of their official duties to manually fill dangerous potholes near the Jnanabharathi Metro Station.

Despite ongoing high-profile civic campaigns such as "Ward One" aimed at improving local infrastructure, dangerous craters continue to plague streets across the city, posing severe safety risks to motorists and commuters. In the latest instance of administrative apathy within the civic body's West zone, local municipal officials repeatedly ignored complaints regarding severe road degradation near the metro station. Driven by concerns over escalating traffic congestion and accident risks, the Jnanabharathi traffic police took matters into their own hands, procuring cement and laboring themselves to patch the broken roadway.

Permanent, high-quality resurfacing remains the statutory responsibility of the city's civic authorities

The spontaneous civic intervention serves as a direct reprimand to municipal authorities, underscoring the widening operational disconnect between law enforcement agencies and civic maintenance departments. Commuters and local residents have frequently criticized the civic administration for sluggish repair responses, noting that despite numerous grievances filed through official channels, essential road maintenance is routinely neglected until public safety hazards trigger direct police intervention or accidents.

Traffic safety experts point out that unrepaired potholes not only endanger two-wheeler riders and pedestrians but also severely disrupt traffic flow, creating massive bottlenecks during peak commuting hours. As public frustration mounts over crumbling urban roads, citizens and civil society groups continue to demand stricter accountability from municipal engineers and ward officials responsible for timely infrastructure upkeep. Meanwhile, police personnel emphasized that while filling potholes temporarily mitigates immediate accident risks on critical thoroughfares, permanent, high-quality resurfacing remains the statutory responsibility of the city's civic authorities.

Delays leave concretized trees choking

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Despite explicit government directives mandating the removal of hard paving around urban flora, hundreds of avenue trees across Bengaluru continue to suffer from severe root suffocation as official files regarding mandatory tree deconcretisation remain stalled on municipal desks.

The crisis stems from administrative inaction following a specialized survey conducted last November by a team of ten forestry students deployed by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). The enumerators identified 128 vulnerable avenue trees whose bases were entirely sealed with concrete, asphalt, and tiles restricting essential access to air, water, and nutrients. In January, the GBA's Forest, Environment and Climate Change Cell (FECCC) formally instructed city corporation chief engineers to strip away the suffocating paving. However, months later, municipal bodies have largely failed to execute the required work.

Environmental experts and residents point out that widespread road repairs and commercial encroachment have left numerous trees sealed right up to their trunks. In areas like Koramangala, Frazer Town, Spencer Road, Cleveland Road, and Nandidurga Main Road, hardened surfaces prevent rainwater infiltration, while local eateries have occasionally constructed makeshift brick seating walls directly against tree trunks. Citizens have urged authorities to cut open the concrete bases and install protective square brick kerbs leaving at least three feet of exposed earth.

While officials from the West and North city corporations suggested that deconcretisation efforts might eventually be incorporated into ongoing civic campaigns like the "Ward One" initiative, noting that preliminary work has begun in areas like Jakkur, critics argue that progress is far too slow. Forestry sources emphasized that under the Karnataka Tree Preservation Act, the forest cell holds the authority to file cases against negligent ward engineers, though physical deconcretisation ultimately depends on municipal execution. As administrative bodies deliberate, Bengaluru's urban canopy continues to struggle against industrial paving.



Avenue trees with their bases sealed by paving.

ILLEGAL DRAIN PILLARS

Unauthorized drain construction halted in Halasuru



Drain work along a city road.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Law enforcement authorities in east Bengaluru have intervened to halt an unverified concrete construction project over a vital stormwater drain along Shirdi Sai Baba Road, located opposite the ISRO Colony, following widespread confusion and local resistance regarding its authorization.

The Halasuru police have formally registered a First Information Report (FIR) against contractors Bharath, Mukesh, and unidentified associates under Section 192(A) of the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964. The criminal case was initiated following a formal complaint lodged by Keshava Prasad B.S., a resident of Appaiah Garden in Jogupalya. In response to the police intervention and ensuing public pressure, the contractors mobilized workers to clear timber logs, construction debris, and heavy materials from the site.

The controversy erupted after local residents noticed concrete pillars being erected directly over the stormwater drain network without any accompanying project signage or public disclosures. When questioned by residents, contractor Mukesh maintained that workers were simply executing instructions issued by higher authorities, directing inquiries regarding formal work orders to engineers within the Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC). However, local stakeholders reported that municipal engineers feigned ignorance when asked to produce official sanction documents.

Complainant Keshava Prasad insisted that authorities must take the investigation further by demolishing the newly cast concrete pillars entirely to preserve the natural flow of the stormwater drain. Another resident, Guna Sekhar, noted that despite repeated demands to inspect work orders, the contractors failed to provide legal clearance. Social activist B.R. Chandran from Halasuru strongly condemned the clandestine project, demanding strict legal action against municipal officials and private contractors who bypass statutory approvals to encroach upon urban drainage corridors.

Environmental and civic groups have frequently warned that unauthorized structural coverings over stormwater drains, or rajakaluves, severely hamper crucial desilting operations, exacerbate urban flooding during heavy monsoons, and violate established environmental protection norms governing urban waterways.



Halasuru: the work on Shirdi Sai Baba Road, opposite ISRO Colony, was halted

Quick Read

Affair-motivated murder uncovered in Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Electronic City police have arrested a woman named Anita and her lover, Madhusudhan, for the murder of her 40-year-old husband, Upendra, in Doddathoguru. Upendra was aware of his wife's long-standing affair, which frequently sparked intense domestic disputes. Following an argument on the night of October 11, Anita summoned Madhusudhan, who slipped into the home and attacked Upendra while he slept. Anita aided the crime by covering her husband's nose and mouth while Madhusudhan strangled him. The perpetrators initially staged a cover-up, weeping and claiming Upendra died of a sudden heart attack after falling. However, a post-mortem report revealed death by suffocation, prompting police to investigate and apprehend both suspects.

Housewife dies by suicide amid dowry allegations

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 23-year-old housewife named Sirisha died by suicide early in the morning at her husband's apartment near Jambusavari Dinne in Konanakunte, just nine months after her marriage. Her grieving family members have accused her husband, Prashanth, and mother-in-law, Rukmini, of subjecting her to severe mental abuse and continuous dowry harassment, driving her to take her own life. The body has been transferred to KIMS Hospital for a post-mortem examination. Konanakunte Police have registered a formal case and are continuing their active investigation into the tragic incident to establish culpability.

Excessive ethanol blending: Minister demands independent testing

Karnataka Minister Rizwan Arshad demands independent testing as ethanol blending samples reach a concerning 31 percent.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka Food and Civil Supplies Minister Rizwan Arshad has strongly criticized Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri for failing to address growing concerns regarding excessive ethanol blending in petrol, while announcing that the state will soon hold formal consultations with Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to enforce third-party testing protocols.



Food and Civil Supplies Minister Rizwan Arshad at a press conference at Vikasa Soudha in Bengaluru.

Addressing a press conference at Vikasa Soudha, Minister Arshad asserted that the state government can no longer accept fuel test reports issued by the oil companies' own internal laboratories. He declared that authorities will issue formal directives requiring random sample testing to be conducted exclusively by independent, National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)-certified private facilities. "If they do not agree to this, we will write to the Central Government urging them to facilitate testing through third-party labs," Arshad stated.

The controversy erupted after the Department of Legal Metrology inspected 63 petrol bunks across districts including Bengaluru, Kolar, Chikkaballapura, Ramanagara, Mangaluru, and Tumakuru. According to the state's findings, samples collected from major retail fuel outlets contained ethanol blends exceeding 20%, with some reaching up to 31%. Arshad defended the state's sampling methodology, noting that collections adhered strictly to established regulations (Class 8, Section 3), with signed documentation from fuel outlet operators and oil company representatives on-site.

The Minister dismissed criticisms from OMCs and opposition leaders, pointing out that oil companies failed to respond after receiving the 63 test samples sent since September 21. He also questioned the technological readiness of standard vehicle engines for high-level blends, citing concerns previously raised by automotive manufacturers regarding high chloride and sulphur levels, as well as luxury vehicle limitations. Furthermore, Arshad noted that improper blending likely originates at upstream oil terminals rather than local retail bunks.

Expressing frustration over the lack of direct commentary from central authorities, Arshad criticized Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri for remaining silent on a nationwide consumer issue. The state government reiterated its demand for absolute transparency, insisting that if higher ethanol blends are introduced, consumers should be provided with clear fuel choices and appropriate pricing adjustments.

> **"If they do not agree to this, we will write to the Central Government urging them to facilitate testing through third-party labs."**
> — **Rizwan Arshad,** Food and Civil Supplies Minister



Congress workers protest against excessive ethanol blending in petrol near Mantri Square in Bengaluru.

Congress protests high ethanol blending

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Intensifying the political fallout over fuel quality disputes, the Bengaluru Central District Congress Committee organized a large-scale demonstration near Mantri Square to protest against oil marketing companies and the Central Government, alleging hazardous levels of excessive ethanol blending in petrol supplies.

Led by Bengaluru Central District Congress President J. Saravanan, dozens of party workers gathered to voice widespread public outrage over declining fuel efficiency and unexpected mechanical damage reported by motorists across the state. The demonstration operated under the political guidance of Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Food and Civil Supplies Minister Rizwan Arshad, following the recent release of state-backed laboratory findings. These inspections, conducted across roughly 60 petrol bunks spanning seven districts, purportedly confirmed that ethanol concentrations in retail fuel samples exceeded officially sanctioned safety limits.

Protesters directed sharp criticism toward central authorities, questioning why union ministries have largely remained silent despite formal notifications regarding the laboratory data. Demonstrators accused federal regulators of shielding corporate oil companies at the expense of ordinary citizens. The agitation featured prominent local leaders, including PCC member B.R. Raghunath and various block presidents, who chanted slogans demanding immediate transparency from petroleum authorities.

The core grievance centers on severe economic hardships imposed on vehicle owners, who face diminished mileage, rapid engine wear, and costly repairs due to corrosive high-ethanol fuel formulations. Consequently, the party formally demanded that the Central Government or associated insurance entities disburse financial compensation to affected motorists. Furthermore, protesters urged authorities to launch criminal investigations against oil corporations found violating blending protocols.

As demonstrators attempted to escalate the rally, local law enforcement intervened swiftly, detaining numerous participants and taking them into custody to restore public order. The confrontation highlights the widening political chasm between state administrators and federal energy officials as the fuel quality debate continues to dominate public discourse.

> **Bengaluru Congress workers protested near Mantri Square, demanding compensation and investigations over excessive ethanol blending in petrol that damages vehicle engines.**

Call for strict regulation

Congress leaders urged transparency, demanding that authorities either enforce strict legal action against non-compliant oil companies or offer consumers clear choices at fuel stations. The ongoing row continues to spark political clashes across the state.

Pure petrol sells at ₹169 amid blending debate

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Amidst a raging statewide controversy regarding excessive ethanol blending and declining fuel efficiency, select retail fuel stations across the region have begun offering unblended, "pure" petrol priced at ₹169 per liter to meet the demands of discerning motorists.

The specialized ethanol-free fuel, which has reportedly been available at niche outlets for the past two to three months, is primarily utilized by owners of high-end luxury automobiles and exotic sports car brands such as Audi and Lamborghini. According to local fuel station proprietor Ram Gopal, approximately 400 liters of this pure petrol are dispensed daily. Gopal noted that an increasing number of vehicle owners, deeply concerned about potential engine corrosion, degraded fuel economy, and mechanical damage resulting from standard 20% ethanol (E20) blends, are willingly paying the premium price to safeguard their high-performance engines and achieve superior mileage.



A pump for premium 100-octane petrol beside one for regular petrol.

The emergence of unblended retail options coincides with heightened consumer anxiety and ongoing political friction surrounding fuel quality standards across Karnataka. In response to widespread customer confusion and mistrust, many regional fuel outlets have introduced real-time transparency measures, conducting live ethanol and density testing directly in front of patrons. Typically, standard density checks are performed at retail stations prior to fuel unloading to detect potential adulteration and verify consistency. However, the current public debate has prompted stations to expand these demonstrations, allowing drivers to personally observe purity assessments.

Automotive experts explain that while government-mandated ethanol blending aims to reduce fossil fuel dependency and carbon emissions, older engines and high-performance luxury powertrains often struggle with elevated alcohol content, which can degrade rubber seals, corrode fuel lines, and diminish overall thermal efficiency. Consequently, the availability of unblended fuel provides a vital, albeit costly, alternative for motorists seeking absolute mechanical protection. Meanwhile, consumer advocacy groups continue to push for greater transparency from oil marketing companies, demanding that standard retail pricing accurately reflect fuel energy densities and that adequate safeguards be implemented to protect ordinary vehicle owners from premature engine wear.

Fuel types and pricing overview

STANDARD E20 PETROL	ETHANOL-FREE PETROL
E20	**₹169**
Up to 20% ethanol, at standard retail rates	A litre, at select pumps for high-end vehicles

CCB questions Krupa Alva in sting probe

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

High-profile political investigations took a dramatic turn as the Central Crime Branch (CCB) formally interrogated Krupa Alva at its cybercrime division headquarters in connection with an ongoing conspiracy case involving a controversial sting operation targeting former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Alva appeared before investigating officers accompanied by her legal counsel, following the issuance of a statutory notice instructing her to join the ongoing probe and surrender personal electronic equipment, including her mobile phone and laptop, for digital forensic evaluation. Speaking briefly to reporters upon entering the facility, Alva maintained a composed demeanor, stating, "Let the procedure be completed first. I will speak after that."

Her defense attorney, Nikita, addressed the media outside the CCB office to clarify her client's legal standing and cooperation with law enforcement. According to her legal representation, Alva has consistently cooperated with the investigating agency, noting that she has previously recorded comprehensive statements before the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) on two separate occasions. "She has now come to provide an official statement following a request for her to appear for questioning once again," Nikita stated, emphasizing that Alva remains fully compliant with procedural mandates.



Former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah (left).

The latest investigative developments trace back to late Friday night, when Alva was intercepted by immigration authorities at Kempegowda International Airport upon her return from a pre-planned overseas trip. Because the CCB had previously secured a Lookout Circular (LOC) and active travel restriction notices against her, airport personnel temporarily detained her before handing her over to CCB Cyber Crime Inspector Satish. Law enforcement officials confirmed that Alva was not formally arrested at the airport, as she had successfully secured interim anticipatory bail from the judiciary prior to her arrival back in the state.

The high-stakes probe centers on allegations of covert audio-visual recording, political conspiracy, and targeted media manipulation designed to destabilize government leadership through coordinated leaks. Cybercrime investigators are currently examining digital footprints, communication logs, and data extractions from seized electronic devices to map out the network behind the clandestine recordings. As political circles closely monitor the unfolding legal proceedings, authorities indicate that further questioning and forensic analyses will continue in the coming days to ascertain the full scope of the conspiracy.

BENGALURU UNVEILS ₹1,017 CRORE ETCS SUBURBAN RAIL PLAN

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a major technological upgrade aimed at revolutionizing urban and regional transit, Bengaluru's upcoming suburban rail network is set to implement an advanced European Train Control System (ETCS) Level-2 signalling architecture, according to recent project disclosures by the Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited (K-RIDE).

The high-tech signalling and telecommunication overhaul, estimated at a substantial cost of Rs 1,017 crore exclusive of applicable Goods and Services Tax (GST) and material customs duties, will primarily govern operations across Corridors 2 and 4. K-RIDE formally floated tenders for this pioneering signalling infrastructure, marking a decisive shift from the previously proposed Communications-Based Train Control (CBTC) framework similar to Namma Metro's Pink and Blue lines. Following strategic reviews, approvals were secured to deploy ETCS Level-2 across all Bengaluru Suburban Transport Project (BSTP) corridors to optimize mainline railway integration and safety parameters.

The deployment of ETCS Level-2 is expected to significantly enhance operational safety by providing continuous, real-time train movement data, automatic speed supervision, and dynamic cab signaling. According to senior K-RIDE representatives, the modern system is engineered to minimize extensive land acquisition requirements, reduce capital expenditures, alleviate chronic urban traffic congestion, and enhance overall regional mobility.

Corridor routes & timelines

MALLIGE LINE (CORRIDOR 2)	KANAKA LINE (CORRIDOR 4)
Baiyappanahalli Terminal to Chikkabanavara, 25 km	**Heelalige to Rajanukunte, 46 km**
SIGNALLING DONE IN	SIGNALLING DONE IN
21 months from bidder selection	**30 months from bidder selection**

51 stainless steel trainsets from ICF

350 passengers a train

80 km/h top speed

The immediate rollout focuses on two vital routes: Corridor 2 (the Mallige Line) and Corridor 4 (the Kanaka Line). The Mallige Line spans a 25-kilometer stretch connecting the Baiyappanahalli Terminal to Chikkabanavara, with signalling installation projected for completion within 21 months following the final selection of a qualified bidder. Meanwhile, the longer Kanaka Line (Corridor 4) runs approximately 46 kilometers from Heelalige to Rajanukunte, with its signalling integration scheduled for completion within a 30-month window.

To support the expanded corridors, the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai has been commissioned to manufacture and supply a total of 51 modern, stainless steel trainsets. Each commuter train will feature a three-coach configuration capable of accommodating up to 350 passengers, with a targeted maximum operational speed of 80 kilometers per hour.

SEC prepares for Karnataka Panchayat polls in January

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Setting the stage for grassroots democratic polls across Karnataka, the State Election Commission (SEC) has formally instructed all district deputy commissioners (DCs) to initiate comprehensive administrative preparations for upcoming zilla panchayat and taluk panchayat elections likely slated for January 2027.

According to official directives issued by the commission, district authorities must immediately begin appointing returning officers (ROs) and assistant returning officers (AROs) in accordance with Rule 6 of the Karnataka Panchayat Raj (Conduct of Elections) Rules, 1993. Under the mandated guidelines, assistant commissioners or officers of equivalent rank will serve as returning officers for zilla panchayat constituencies, while tahsildar-level personnel will oversee taluk panchayat jurisdictions. District chiefs have been instructed to convene preliminary planning meetings, organize rigorous training modules covering every stage of the electoral workflow, and submit finalized officer lists to the SEC for formal approval by November 16.

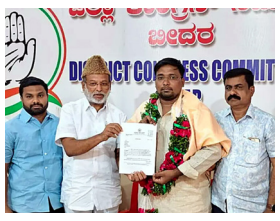
Road to the polls

- **NOVEMBER 16** — Lists of returning officers due at the SEC
- **MID-DECEMBER** — Polling schedule may be published
- **JANUARY 2027** — Zilla and taluk panchayat polls likely

The administrative push follows recent indications from Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Minister Eshwar B. Khandre, who noted that the election authority may officially publish the comprehensive polling schedule by mid-December. To ensure administrative stability, the commission has strictly prohibited DCs from reassigning or modifying designated election personnel without prior written consent from the SEC. Furthermore, officials selected for electoral duties are required to possess prior operational experience in conducting civic polls.

Preparations have also advanced on logistical fronts. Sources indicate that the election commission recently completed a comprehensive statewide audit of existing ballot boxes, confirming that equipment valued at over Rs 80 crore remains fully serviceable for reuse. Additionally, the state government recently sanctioned Rs 125 crore to the commission to procure supplementary ballot boxes and necessary materials, as the upcoming elections will utilize traditional ballot papers rather than electronic voting machines. The finalized rosters of returning officers are expected to be officially notified immediately following formal clearance of district proposals by the commission.

Quick Read



Prasannakumar appointed Bidar Jawahar Bal Manch President

CH NEWS, BIDAR

Prasannakumar has been appointed as the Bidar District President of Jawahar Bal Manch.

The appointment was announced by Karnataka State President of Jawahar Bal Manch Mainuddin H.J., following recommendations from AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge, KPCC President B.K. Hariprasad, AICC General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, Jawahar Bal Manch National President G.V. Hari and Congress District President Abdul Mannan Seth.In the appointment order, Mainuddin H.J. instructed Prasannakumar to strengthen the organisation's district unit, expand its activities across Bidar and coordinate with local leaders. He has also been asked to focus on building a strong organisational network and increasing the organisation's presence throughout the district.

Gram Panchayat Tax Collector Test Nov 20

CH NEWS, Chitradurga

A computer literacy test for candidates shortlisted for direct recruitment to Gram Panchayat Tax Collector posts across Chitradurga district will be conducted on November 20 at the Government College of Teacher Education. The list of 58 eligible candidates has been published on the official website, chitradurga.nic.in. Candidates must report to the examination centre one hour before the scheduled time. According to Zilla Panchayat CEO Dr. S. Akash, candidates numbered 01–20 will appear from 10 AM to 11:30 AM, 21–40 from noon to 1:30 PM, and 41–58 from 2 PM to 3:30 PM.

Chitradurga Zilla Panchayat announces tecruitment test schedule

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

The Chitradurga Zilla Panchayat has scheduled a Computer Literacy (Efficiency) Test on November 20, 2026, for direct recruitment to vacant Tax Collector (Karasooligara) posts across local Gram Panchayats.

According to an official notification issued on behalf of the Chief Executive Officer, 58 shortlisted candidates will appear for the assessment at the Teacher Education College, Chitradurga.

The examination will run in three sequential batches: serial numbers 1 to 20 from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM, 21 to 40 from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM, and 41 to 58 from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM. Candidates must report one hour prior to their slot. The complete list is available on the official district portal

Protesters demand action against Bidar DHO over nurse transfer

Protesters accused the DHO of abusing official authority over nurse Bhagyalakshmi's transfer cancellation, demanding accountability through a memorandum to the Health Minister.

CH NEWS, BIDAR

Members of the Rashtriya Ahind Sanghatane staged a protest outside the District Health and Family Welfare Department office on Monday, demanding action against the District Health and Family Welfare Officer (DHO) and the transfer of a nurse working at the Janawada Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Bidar taluk.

The protesters accused the DHO of misusing his official authority by cancelling the transfer order issued against nurse Bhagyalakshmi. They raised slogans against the officer and submitted a memorandum addressed to the State Health and Family Welfare Minister through the Deputy Commissioner.

According to the memorandum, complaints had been raised against Bhagyalakshmi over her alleged behaviour towards pregnant women visiting the health centre. The protesters claimed that she had failed to provide proper assistance to women experiencing labour pains, putting mothers and newborns at risk.

The memorandum stated that complaints regarding the nurse's conduct had earlier been submitted to the Deputy Commissioner, Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer and DHO. Following these complaints, the DHO had reportedly issued a transfer order. However, the order was cancelled a few days later.

The organisation alleged that the decision to withdraw the transfer order reflected the misuse of official powers and demanded an inquiry into the DHO's actions.



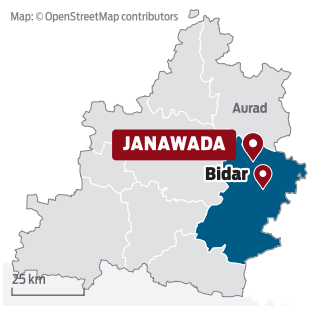
Members of the Rashtriya Ahind Sanghatane stage a protest outside the District Health and Family Welfare Department office in Bidar on Monday.

The protest in brief

- **Protest:** the Rashtriya Ahind Sanghatane demonstrated outside the District Health Department office
- **Complaint:** the nurse is accused of failing women in labour at the Janawada PHC
- **Reversal:** the DHO ordered her transfer after complaints, then cancelled it within days
- **Memorandum:** sent to the Health Minister through the Deputy Commissioner

The protesters called for Bhagyalakshmi's immediate transfer and appropriate disciplinary action against the DHO. They also urged the authorities to ensure proper healthcare services for pregnant women and children at the Janawada PHC.

Those who participated in the protest included Rashtriya Ahind Sanghatane District President Ghalappa Bemalkheda, former Taluk Panchayat member Ravindra Bhange, BVS District President Pradeep Natekar, Lakshman S. Devaka, Somashekhar Karakanalli, Anthony S. Doddi, Sachin Metre and Ravi Sharma, among others.



Janawada: the primary health centre is in Bidar taluk.

Shivalinge Gowda rejects bribery allegations, demands apology



Excise Minister K.M. Shivalinge Gowda.

CH NEWS, HASSAN

Karnataka Excise Minister and Hassan District In-charge Minister K.M. Shivalinge Gowda has strongly denied allegations that Deputy Commissioner K.S. Latha Kumari paid him a bribe to avoid being transferred.

He challenged former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy to provide evidence to support the allegations or withdraw them and issue a public apology.

In a media statement, Shivalinge Gowda said serious allegations against public representatives must be supported by evidence. He questioned the authenticity of the WhatsApp conversations presented to support the claims and said mentioning someone's name in a conversation did not establish that money had changed hands.

He urged Kumaraswamy to submit any available evidence to the appropriate investigating agency so that the truth could emerge. He also rejected what he described as baseless allegations against himself and the Deputy Commissioner.

Referring to the ongoing Hassanamba Jatra Mahotsava, the minister said religious celebrations should not be used for political attacks. He stated that he would not allow even a single rupee to be misappropriated in the festival arrangements and offered to provide a detailed account supported by evidence.

The minister said he had been staying in Hassan for the past 20 days, working alongside the local MP to oversee preparations for the annual festival. He added that his priority was to ensure proper arrangements and facilities for devotees.

Shivalinge Gowda said he was willing to respond to any genuine questions about administrative lapses if they were supported by evidence. However, he maintained that allegations damaging his reputation and that of the Deputy Commissioner were unacceptable.

He reiterated his demand that Kumaraswamy either prove the allegations or publicly withdraw them and apologise.

A KILLER'S CHILLING OVERNIGHT TRAIL ON CHAMUNDI HILL

MYSURU

A car carrying a horrifying secret rolled into Mysuru at 10.40 am on October 26. To anyone watching, it was just another vehicle making its way along the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway. But concealed inside the cab were two bodies, allegedly belonging to members of a family brutally murdered in Bengaluru's Rajajinagar.

What followed reads like a chilling crime thriller, with Chamundi Hill becoming the unlikely setting for an alleged exercise in calculated body disposal.

The 52-year-old accused, S. Indushekhar alias Arjun Indushekhar, a cab driver, is alleged to have murdered seven members of his wife Sunitha's family over a domestic and property dispute. The recovery of two more bodies from Chamundi Hill has now brought into focus the disturbing details of his alleged movements in Mysuru.

According to police sources, the cab crossed the Gananguru Toll Plaza near Srirangapatna at 10.40 am on October 26. The bodies were allegedly wrapped in cloth and sprayed with chemicals to suppress the smell, apparently ensuring that the journey would not attract unwanted attention.

But the most disturbing part of the alleged operation unfolded on Chamundi Hill.

A festival crowd, a calculated opportunity?

October 26 coincided with the Teppotsava of Goddess Chamundeshwari at Devikere.



Thousands of devotees had converged on the hill, prompting the deployment of additional police personnel around the temple tank and adjoining areas.

Yet, according to investigators, the accused may have found an opportunity in the very arrangements made for crowd management. While police presence was substantial around Devikere, patrolling at other viewpoints and stretches of the hill was relatively sparse.

Investigators suspect that he exploited these gaps, moving his car between different parking locations and viewpoints before allegedly pushing the bodies down steep slopes.

One body reportedly got entangled in a tree, while another plunged nearly 30 metres into a deep gorge. Dense vegetation and difficult terrain, compounded by rainfall, made the bodies difficult to spot.

The car that concealed a terrible secret

Perhaps the most chilling detail is that the accused reportedly remained inside his car for extended periods, even parking at forest department viewpoints where patrols were conducted at intervals of around 30 minutes.

Drought, rising prices dampen Deepavali celebrations

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

Deepavali celebrations in Muddebihal have been subdued this year as drought conditions and rising prices of festive items have forced families to reduce their purchases.

Unlike previous years, shoppers are buying fewer flowers, fruits, decorative lights and firecrackers due to the increased cost of essential items.

Flowers are selling at ₹100 to ₹120 per kg. Fruit prices have also increased amid inadequate post-monsoon rainfall. Lemons cost ₹5 each, while apples and mosambis are priced at ₹40 each. A dozen hybrid bananas costs ₹70 to ₹80, while country bananas are selling for ₹100 to ₹120.

Decorative electric lights, which previously cost ₹90 to ₹200, are now priced between ₹280 and ₹600.

The rising prices have affected household budgets, with many families cutting down on purchases of flowers and fruits for Lakshmi Puja. The drought situation has further added to people's difficulties.

Despite the festive occasion, the rising cost of essential items has reduced the usual excitement in the local market, making Deepavali celebrations more expensive for residents.

Kannada must drive livelihood and employment: Prof. Ananda

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

Kannada must become the language of livelihood and employment, and people should make it an integral part of their daily lives, said noted writer Prof. C.S. Ananda.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the 71st Karnataka Rajyotsava celebration organised by the city-based Suki Cultural Organisation and Suki Musical Studio.

A 2,000-year literary history

Prof. Ananda said Karnataka had a rich history and cultural heritage, while Kannada had a literary history spanning nearly 2,000 years. He stressed that Kannadigas had a responsibility to preserve, promote and use the language in their everyday activities.

He said Kannada was the language of people's homes

> *Kannada is the language of people's homes and hearts, Prof. Ananda said*

and hearts and had made valuable contributions to literature and society. The writings and teachings of the Sharanas, Dasas, saints, Tatvapadakaras and folk thinkers had enriched Kannada literature and conveyed important messages about humanity.

He also noted that eight prominent writers from the region had contributed significantly to modern Kannada literature through their creative works.

Prof. Ananda urged people to take pride in their language and ensure that Kannada continued to grow through regular use and cultural activities.

Songs for Rajyotsava

The programme also featured musical performances by several artists who presented songs celebrating Kannada language and culture.

Senior journalist and amateur singer M. Sanjeeva participated along with Gundurao Kadani, Basavantraya Kolakur, Siddu Waghmare, Sangeeta Waghmare, Kaviraj Nimbala, Sagara Waghmare and Kaviraj Ananda.

Organisation President Kiran Patil welcomed the gathering, delivered the introductory address and proposed the vote of thanks.

Mandya farmers can apply for crop insurance scheme

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Farmers in Mandya district can enrol in the Karnataka Raitha Suraksha Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana for the 2026-27 Rabi (Hingaru) and summer (Besige) seasons. The scheme has been approved under the State Government notification dated October 31, 2026.

For the Rabi season, horse gram (rain-fed) insurance is available in notified Gram Panchayats of Maddur, Mandya, Nagamangala, Pandavapura and Srirangapatna taluks. For the summer season, farmers in notified Gram Panchayats of Mandya, Pandavapura and Srirangapatna can insure irrigated paddy crops.

At the hobli level, Rabi crop insurance covers irrigated ragi and rain-fed horse gram in notified areas of Mandya, Maddur, Malavalli, Pandavapura, K.R. Pete and Nagamangala taluks. Tomato insurance is also available in Chinakuruli, Melukote and Kasaba hoblis of Pandavapura taluk.

For the summer season, irrigated paddy and ragi are covered in notified hoblis of the same six taluks. Tomato insurance is available in Melukote hobli of Pandavapura taluk.

Under the revised scheme guidelines, farmers who have taken crop loans will be automatically enrolled. Those who do not wish to participate must submit a written declaration to their bank manager at least seven days before the registration deadline. Participation is voluntary for farmers without crop loans.

Applicants must provide their Aadhaar number and land records, such as the Record of Rights, Tenancy and Crops (RTC), or bank passbook. A Farmers Identification Number (FID/FRUITS ID) is also mandatory. Farmers without an FID can obtain one through the nearest Raitha Samparka Kendra or Horticulture Department office.

Farmers can pay premiums and submit applications through banks, Common Service Centres and Grama One centres. They must also ensure that their crops are correctly recorded through the Crop Survey App or authorised enumerators, as insurance claims will be checked against crop survey records.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is given to the General public that my client, State Bank of India, Jyothinagara Branch, Sira Town is going to sanction loan in favour of **Smt.H.V.Manjula** W/o **J.Manjunatha**, against security of below mentioned schedule property and other properties. As per the information from Smt.H.V.Manjula, she has misplaced the original Grant Certificate Dt:29.04.1999, vide No.LNDRUC(ka)C.R:136/1991-92. In this regard she has lodged online complaint to police department, vide lost **Report No.2523624/2026**. Hence anybody having title interest, and right in any manner over the schedule property, may intimate the same in writing with documentary evidence to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of this publication, failing which my client will proceed with the loan transactions as not claimed. Further it is requested that if anybody finds above said regd Sale Deed, the same may be handed over either to me or to my client. **SCHEDUELE:** Agriculture land bearing old Sy.No.31, block No.17, new Sy.No.324 measuring 1 acre 5 guntas situated at Seebi Agrahara Village, Kallambella Hobli, Sira Taluk, Tumakuru District.

H.Wajid Ahmed
Advocate and Notary
R.T.Road Sira Town
Mob: 9448101786

FIGHT AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

Community participation vital for TB-free India: DC

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Deputy Commissioner S. Ramya has stressed the importance of community participation in eliminating tuberculosis (TB) and achieving the goal of a TB-free India.

She called for intensified surveillance and awareness programmes, particularly in Chitradurga and Challakere taluks, where the district has reported a higher number of cases.

She was speaking at a district-level Tuberculosis Forum meeting held at the Deputy Commissioner's office. She expressed concern over India's high TB burden and said coordinated efforts were needed to identify cases early and provide timely treatment.



The Deputy Commissioner directed health officials to strengthen surveillance in the two taluks. She also called for special campaigns in urban areas to identify suspected cases and create public awareness. She instructed various government departments to work together with the Health Department to improve early detection.

District Tuberculosis Control Officer Dr. Thulasiranganath explained the national TB control programme and the importance of early diagnosis, treatment and regular patient follow-up. He highlighted the use of modern diagnostic equipment and technology to detect the disease quickly.

According to the figures presented at the meeting, Chitradurga district has 1,085 patients currently undergoing treatment. Of these, 347 are in Chitradurga, 133 in Holalkere, 130 in Hosadurga, 147 in Hiriyur, 213 in Challakere and 115 in Molakalmuru.

The district's reported treatment recovery rate stands at 88%, compared with 90% at the State level.

Dr. Thulasiranganath said patients must receive continuous medical support until they complete treatment. He also encouraged people to use the Nikshay mobile application for information about TB.

District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. M.C. Sunil Kumar, District RCH Officer Dr. D.M. Abhinav, Women and Child Development Department Deputy Director Vijayakumar and other departmental officials attended the meeting.

Quick Read

Railway invites ex-servicemen for 118 Pointsman posts

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

The South Central Railway's Secunderabad Division has invited applications from ex-servicemen for 118 Pointsman posts on an outsourced basis. The last date to apply is November 18.

Eligible ex-servicemen below 54 years of age from Shivamogga, Davanagere and Chitradurga districts can submit applications in the prescribed format in person at the Office of the Deputy Director, Department of Sainik Welfare and Resettlement, Shivamogga.

Deputy Director Dr. C.A. Hiremath said applicants can contact the office at 08182-220925 during working hours for further details.

Open trench poses danger to students in Hunsur

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

A deep trench in the middle of the road near the Old Post Office in Ward 11 of Hunsur town has become a serious safety concern for residents and students.

The trench is located behind the Hunsur City Municipal Council (CMC) office, along a road used daily by hundreds of students travelling to HPBS School, Government Women's College and Government PU College. A library and the State Government Employees' Association office are also situated nearby.

Satya M.S. Foundation President Satyappa has urged municipal authorities to close the trench within two days to prevent accidents.

Review meeting on Pancha Guarantee schemes on Nov 12

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Karnataka State Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority Vice-Chairman S.R. Mehroz Khan will hold a review meeting on November 12 at 11 am at the Zilla Panchayat Hall in Chitradurga.

The meeting will review the progress of the implementation of the state government's Pancha Guarantee schemes in the district.

According to an official announcement, an interactive session will also be held after the meeting with women beneficiaries of the Gruha Lakshmi scheme. The session will provide an opportunity to interact with women who are using the scheme's financial assistance to lead self-reliant lives.

Encroachment on government land cleared in Ballari

ADDITIONAL DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MUHAMMAD N. ZUBAIR SAID 1 ACRE AND 23 CENTS OF GOVERNMENT LAND, EARMARKED FOR ROAD WIDENING AND PUBLIC PURPOSES, HAD BEEN ENCROACHED UPON



The encroachment clearance operation in Survey No. 607, Ballari

CH NEWS, BALLARI

The Revenue and Police departments jointly conducted an operation on Monday to reclaim government land allegedly under illegal encroachment in Survey No. 607 in Ballari city. The operation was led by Additional Deputy Commissioner Muhammad N. Zubair.

Speaking to reporters after the operation, Zubair said that 1 acre and 23 cents of land, which had been reserved by the Deputy Commissioner for road widening and other public purposes, had been encroached upon.

He further explained that another 2 acres and 27 cents had been allotted approximately 14 years ago to the Aarogya Niketana Trust for the welfare of intellectually disabled children belonging to backward communities. However, the land had reportedly remained unused and had not served the purpose for which it was originally granted.

Land reclamation

Road land

1 acre 23 cents earmarked for road widening and public use recovered.

Trust grant

2 acres 27 cents allotted 14 years ago to the Aarogya Niketana Trust taken back after an audit found it unused.

Following irregularities identified in an audit report and the completion of the required legal procedures, the district administration initiated action to reclaim the land. Accordingly, the government took possession of the land allotted to the trust, following the directions of the Deputy Commissioner, Nagendra Prasad K.

In total, the land, including the portion earmarked for road widening, has been brought back under government possession.

Zubair also stated that the operation marked the 17th successful encroachment clearance drive conducted by the Task Force constituted under the leadership of the Deputy Commissioner.

Assistant Commissioner H.D. Rajesh, the Tahsildar, and officials and personnel from the Revenue and Police departments participated in the operation.

The district administration stated that the action was part of its efforts to protect government property and ensure that public land is utilized for its intended purposes.

Halepura Lake gets water after fifteen-year wait



The programme in Halepura to mark water reaching the village lake

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

A long-standing demand of villagers in Halepura has finally been fulfilled, with water reaching the village lake through a lift irrigation project. Former Hunsur MLA H.P. Manjunath performed a special puja and offered bagina to the lake to mark the occasion.

Villagers welcomed Manjunath with a procession through the main streets and honoured him in recognition of his efforts towards completing the project.

Speaking at the programme, Manjunath said the project was approved in 2016 during his tenure as MLA, with the support of then Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and then Water Resources Minister M.B. Patil. He also acknowledged the role of the government in releasing funds and completing the work.

He recalled that former H.D. Kote MLA Chikkamadu had requested that three lakes in his constituency also be included in the project. Accordingly, a project costing approximately ₹82 crore was planned to supply water to 52 lakes, including 49 in Hunsur taluk and three in H.D. Kote taluk.

Manjunath said the proposal had also been discussed with village elders from Gagenahalli during the work to fill Bilikere Lake. He expressed happiness that water had now reached Halepura Lake, bringing joy to the villagers.

> "I feel proud and satisfied that water has reached 131 lakes in the Hunsur constituency"
> — **H.P. Manjunath,** Former Hunsur MLA

The lift irrigation project

- **2016:** project approved
- **₹82 crore** (approx.) to fill lakes
- **52 lakes:** 49 in Hunsur taluk, 3 in H.D. Kote
- **131 lakes** filled in the Hunsur constituency

Satisfaction of filling 131 lakes

Manjunath said he had served as an MLA for three terms and had always tried to honour the trust placed in him by the people and farmers of the constituency.

Referring to the lake development work in Channapatna, he said Channapatna MLA C.P. Yogeshwar had earned the title of 'Bhagiratha' for helping fill 16 lakes with water.

"I feel proud and satisfied that water has reached 131 lakes in the Hunsur constituency.

Whether people call me Bhagiratha or not does not matter. The love and affection of the people who have trusted me are my greatest strength," he said emotionally.

Makkala Kalashri competition encourages children's creativity

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA



Extracurricular activities play an important role in developing children's talents, building confidence and refreshing their minds, said Senior Civil Judge and District Legal Services Authority Member-Secretary Shameer P. Nandyal.

He was speaking after inaugurating the district-level Makkala Kalashri competition at the District Bala Bhavana hall in Chitradurga. The event was organised jointly by the State Bala Bhavana Society, Zilla Panchayat, Department of Women and Child Development and District Bala Bhavana Committee.

Nandyal said such competitions help children develop a healthy competitive spirit and showcase their creative abilities. Appreciating the entries presented by the participants, he said the quality of their work made the task of selecting winners difficult. He expressed confidence that the selected participants would perform well at the state-level competition.

He also stressed the importance of teaching children about laws, fundamental rights and their responsibilities from an early age. He highlighted the role of parents and teachers in developing good values and cultural awareness among children.

District Nodal Officer of the Department of Women and Child Development J.R. Dinesh said the Makkala Kalashri programme is organised annually by the State Bala Bhavana Society in association with the department.

More than 142 children from across Chitradurga district participated in various competitions based on the theme 'New Innovations in Science'.

Two participants from each category will be selected to attend the state-level Kalashri camp along with Bala Bhavana staff.

Dinesh appreciated the children's performances and encouraged them to continue developing their talents.

Winners received certificates of merit and mementoes, while all participants were given certificates of participation.

Groups protest unscientific road work on Old BM Road

CH NEWS, HUNSUR



Leaders of progressive organisations staged a protest against the alleged poor-quality and unscientific development work on Old BM Road in Hunsur. They accused officials of negligence and warned of approaching the Lokayukta if the problems were not addressed.

Speaking to reporters, advocate Puttaraju said the government had sanctioned ₹7.5 crore for the road development project, but the work was progressing unsatisfactorily. He alleged that essential preparations, including shifting electricity poles, removing trees and constructing drainage facilities, had not been completed even after three months.

He also alleged that the road was not being developed to its proposed width of 14 metres and that space on one side was being left unused. He questioned how road development could proceed without identifying space for drains and warned against wasting public money.

Satya M.S. Foundation President Satyappa blamed Public Works Department (PWD) officials for the alleged mismanagement. He said the work had begun without a proper road survey, identification of drainage areas or necessary Forest Department permission for tree removal.

He added that the poor condition of roads was causing inconvenience to the city's more than 80,000 residents. He alleged that delays by the Forest and Survey departments and the installation of electricity poles by KPTCL were affecting the project. He warned that a Lokayukta complaint and legal action would follow if the issues remained unresolved.

RTI activist Intek Raju also criticised the alleged negligence of PWD officials and the City Municipal Council Commissioner. He demanded an immediate survey and proper marking of road boundaries.

Former MLA steps in

Former MLA H.P. Manjunath held discussions with Forest Department representative Santhosh Hoogar, KPTCL Assistant Executive Engineer Kaleem, PWD Assistant Executive Engineer Yatish and contractor Dhananjay.

Yatish said the two-kilometre stretch from Devaraj Arasu Circle to Samvidhana Circle was being developed at a cost of approximately ₹7 crore.

H.K. Patil gifts house to homeless woman for Diwali

CH NEWS, GADAG

MLA H.K. Patil handed over a house allotment letter to a homeless woman as a Diwali gift at a programme held at the City Municipal Council premises on Monday.

Khairunnisa S. Shekhattar had been living in a makeshift hut beneath the railway overbridge on Station Road for nearly 65 years. However, the Railway Department demolished the hut due to the poor condition of the overbridge, leaving her without shelter and forcing her to face considerable hardship.

Although Khairunnisa had applied for a house under the Homes for the Homeless scheme in 2022, she had not received an allotment.

Considering her situation, a house was sanctioned for her under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) 3630 (G+1) group housing project. The house was allotted from the 760 units available for distribution. She was assigned Block No. 32, Unit No. 01, on the first floor. MLA H.K. Patil personally handed over the allotment letter to her.

The programme was attended by Legislative Council member S.V. Sankanur, Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority Taluk President Ashok Mandali and Urban Development Authority Chairman Akbarsab Babarchi.

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Address; - Registrar, Christ University, Hosur Road, Bangalore -560029

Tender Notice No: CU-OR-NCC-11/26 Date: 11 November 2026

Sealed quotations are hereby invited from GST-registered and FSSAI-licensed caterers, local vendors, and authorized suppliers for supplying refreshments to the NCC cadets, during institutional training and parades for the academic year 2026-27.

- Last Date for Submission: 13 November 2026 before 4:00 PM
- Submission Address: Sealed quotations must be dropped in the tender box at address mentioned above
- Bid Opening: 14 November 2026 at 10:00 AM in the presence of the Purchase Committee.

Bengaluru South Zilla Panchayat
Office of the Executive Engineer
PANCHAYATHRAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION
Ramanagara, Bangalore South Dist.

No.EE/PRED/RMG/JE/TEND-17/2026-27 Date: 07.11.2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Only through KPP Portal system)

The Executive Engineer, Panchayathraj Engineering Division, Ramanagara, Bangalore South Dist invites the Itemwise tender. Contractors registered in KPWD, enrolled in PRED/PWD Licence for the works In Magadi, Kanakapura, Ramanagara and Channapatana Taluks Under Head of Account: 2026-27th Year development scheme of CMIDP Grant and Differenct Head of Account Indent No: **1)** RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT30620 **2)** RDPR/ 2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT 30297. **3)** RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT30612 **4)**RDPR/2026-27/BD /WORK INDENT30614. **5)**RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT 30613. **6)**RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT29883. **7)** RDPR/2026-27/BD/ WORK_INDENT30615.**8)**RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT30621. **9)**RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT 30619.**10)** RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT30611.**11)** RDPR/2026-27/BD/ WORK_INDENT30352.**12)**RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT 30183.**13)**RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK INDENT30242. Tender Minimum Estimate amount work of **Rs.5.00** Lakh. Maximum Estimate Amount **Rs.150.00 lakh**. Last Date for submission of Tender **Dated: 17.11.2026 by 4.00 PM**. Opening of the Tenchical Bid Tender **Dated: 18.11.2026 at 4.30 PM.** Opening of the Financical Bid Tender **Dated: 20.11.2026 at 4.30 PM (Only for KW-III & IV).** on wards For details & further information visit the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Or contact this office in office hours.

Sd/- **Executive Engineer**
Panchayathraj Engineering Division
Ramanagara

DIPR/BSD/377/SA/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರ್
ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹಬ್ಬುವಾಡಾ–ಕಾರವಾರ, ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ – 581301
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: (08382)228935 E-mail: eerdwsd.uk@gmail.com
ನಂ:ಕಾನಿಇಂ/ಗ್ರಾಕುನಿ&ನೈವಿ/ಕಾರವಾರ/ಪಿಬಿ–2/ ಟೆಂಡರ್/FSTP/2026–27/1618 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09/11/2026

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರವಾರ ಇವರಿಂದ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಖರೀದಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಕಾನೂನು ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ **2000** ಹಾಗೂ **Standard Tender Document KW-3** ನಂತೆ ಕಾಲಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾದ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಆದೇಶಗಳನ್ವಯ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತೆ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿದಂತೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹೆಸರು: **(1) RWSSD/2026-27/WT/WORK_INDENT11070**
(2) RWSSD/2026-27/WT/WORK_INDENT11071

(1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯುರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಡೌನಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **09–11–2026** ರಿಂದ **20–11–2026**ರ **16.30** ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ **(2)** ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯುರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **20–11–2026** ರ **16.30** ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ **(3)** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **21–11–2026** ರಂದು **17.00** ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ. ಉಳಿದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು
ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ
ಕಾರವಾರ (ಉ.ಕ. ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ)

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/548/26-27
dt. 09.11.2026

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, CHITRADURGA-577501
(Telephone & Fax No. 08195- 200094
E-mail :ka.chitradurga.cmc@gmail.com

No.CMC: Technical(1)/Tender:CR:10/2026-27, Date:07-11-2026

Karnataka Public Procurement portal short term Tender

Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Full-Term Tender Notification (Applications invited as per Standard Tender Document KW-1, 2 Rules) On behalf of the Governor of the State of Karnataka within the limits of Chitradurga Municipal Council Proposed Construction of Central Meat Market at Chitradurga City to implement the procurement execute works, **CMC fund of Rs. 236.75 lakhs. 15 Works, 1 Ro Plant Repaire and maitenance and 2 good Indents** Item-wise tenders have been invited via the 'two-cover system' on the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for Eligible contractors registered with the Karnataka Public Works Department or the Electricity Department as well are invited to participate. Please visit the department's website for documents related to the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. Applications will not be accepted at this office through this mode alone. Details are provided below. For further information, one may consult the engineers in the City Municipal Council's works division or visit the municipal website at www.chitradurgacity.mrc.gov.in. The GST amount will be paid separately. (Maximum amount: Rs.50.00 lakhs).

(1) Last date for submission of Applications as per K.P.P. Portal for blank tender forms and submission of filled schedule-B 17-11-2026 up to 5.00 PM **(2)** Date of opening the Tender (Technical) 18-11-2026 at 5.30 PM **(3)** Date of opening the Tender (Financial) 19.11.2026 at 5.30 PM or After approval of Technical Bid **(4)** Application Fee (Non-returnable) As per K.P.P. Portal Rules.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/397/2026-27

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CONGRESS TRAPPED IN THE POLITICS OF ABUSIVE RHETORIC AND CONFRONTATION



LALIT GARGG

In a democracy, the ruling party and the opposition may be political adversaries, but their language should reflect ideological competition rather than personal hostility. Political differences are a source of democratic strength; however, when disagreements degenerate into personal jibes, family-directed remarks and derogatory language, the quality of political discourse deteriorates and the dignity of democratic institutions is undermined. In Indian politics, the increasingly aggressive remarks made by several Congress leaders against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, followed by the controversial statement delivered by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge in Patna, have once again brought the issue of political decorum into sharp focus.

On October 25, 2026, at an event organised in Patna to commemorate the 139th birth anniversary of Dr. Shri Krishna Singh, Bihar's first Chief Minister, a remark by Kharge triggered a political controversy. Responding to a comment made by a person present at the gathering, he reportedly said, "Even Modi's Baap will be gone." The statement drew sharp criticism from Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders, while the Congress attempted to explain the remark in its ideological context. According to media reports, the individual concerned subsequently maintained that his entire statement had not been heard. The various parties involved have offered their own interpretations of the episode. Yet, beyond the political sparring, a fundamental question remains: Is this really the appropriate way to express opposition to a person holding the highest political office in the country?

Kharge is a senior Congress leader with decades of political experience and the responsibility of leading the party as its national president. It is only natural to expect a greater degree of restraint, maturity and judgment from a leader of his stature. If an unfavourable remark is made during a political gathering, it can be countered with reason, facts and confidence. But when the response descends into personal references and family-directed language, the substantive issue recedes into the background, while the controversy over words takes centre stage in the news. In politics, words are not merely spontaneous reactions; they are also a test of a leader's public responsibility and democratic values.

> **"Indian politics therefore needs the language of dialogue, not bitterness; the strength of arguments, not the sting of insults. For in a true democracy, it is ideas that must prevail, not personal humiliation."**
>
> **— Lalit Gargg**

The history of sharp and controversial remarks directed at Narendra Modi within Congress politics provides a broader context for this debate. During the 2007 Gujarat Assembly election campaign, Sonia Gandhi used the expression "merchant of death" to describe Modi. In the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, Mani Shankar Aiyar's "chaiwala" remark also triggered a major political controversy. In subsequent years, Rahul Gandhi's slogan "Chowkidar Chor Hai" brought political discourse further into the realm of personalised accusations. Each of these statements had its own political context, and the speakers offered their respective justifications. Nevertheless, their public impact raises an important question: Can criticism of a political leader be confined to his policies, performance and decisions, or has personal ridicule increasingly become an accepted instrument of political engagement?

Priyanka Gandhi and other Congress leaders have also launched sharp political attacks on Modi and his government on several occasions. It is important to recognise that strong criticism is not inherently undignified. Raising tough questions about government policies, unemployment, inflation, social harmony, democratic institutions and administrative decisions is a constitutional responsibility of the opposition. The problem arises when policy disagreements become entangled with personal insults and sarcasm begins to replace reasoned argument as a means of gaining political traction. It would be unfair to place every statement by every leader in the same category. However, recurring controversies of this nature undoubtedly warrant serious reflection on the declining standards of political language.

Herein lies a significant challenge for the Congress. Its credibility and effectiveness as an opposition party will ultimately depend on how successfully it builds a meaningful public discourse around issues that directly affect people's lives. Addressing farmers' concerns, creating employment opportunities for young people, strengthening education and healthcare, reducing economic inequality and advancing social justice are among its most important responsibilities. If public debate repeatedly narrows down to personal attacks on the Prime Minister, there is a real danger that substantive policy discussions will be pushed aside. This can also weaken the very foundations of the opposition's criticism. When political discourse revolves around personalities rather than public issues, democracy gains little from the exchange.

At the same time, Narendra Modi's public persona and international engagement remain significant dimensions of Indian politics. His overseas visits, dialogue with world leaders, participation in international forums and efforts to strengthen economic and strategic partnerships are closely connected with India's evolving global role. His supporters regard these initiatives as evidence of India's growing prestige and influence on the world stage. However, a fair assessment of any Prime Minister's tenure cannot rest solely on international standing. It must also take into account domestic policies, economic outcomes, social inclusion and the overall record of governance. The true beauty of democracy lies in its ability to recognise a leader's achievements while preserving the freedom to critically scrutinise his decisions.



It is also worth considering that the more personal and insulting the language directed against a political leader becomes, the greater the possibility of provoking a defensive reaction among his supporters. It would be inaccurate to conclude that Congress's criticism of Narendra Modi has always produced the same political consequences. Electoral outcomes are shaped by numerous factors, including leadership, organisational strength, local issues, candidates, alliances and voters' expectations. Nevertheless, one political risk is undeniable: when the opposition relies more heavily on personal remarks than on evidence, policy arguments and credible alternatives, it risks losing the opportunity to communicate its message effectively to the electorate. Conversely, the BJP, too, must not limit itself to reacting to controversial statements by its opponents. It must remain accountable to the public on the basis of its own performance, policies and governance.

The language of politics has a profound influence on the behaviour of society. When senior leaders lose their composure on public platforms, there is a risk that hostility and bitterness will spread among their supporters and political workers as well. Social media further intensifies this tendency, allowing a brief excerpt from a speech to dominate the entire public discourse, often at the expense of context and substance. Political leaders must therefore consider the social consequences of their words and the dignity attached to their public office before speaking. There is a fundamental difference between humiliating a political opponent and defeating an opponent's argument. In a democracy, the latter matters far more.

Ultimately, whether it is the Congress or the BJP, the real strength of a political party is determined not by the aggression of its rhetoric, but by the quality of its ideas, the effectiveness of its policies, its commitment to public service and the trust it commands among the people. Criticising Prime Minister Modi is a democratic right, but such criticism must be grounded in facts, reason and substantive arguments. Similarly, whether it is Congress president Kharge or a leader from the ruling establishment, everyone in public life must recognise that disagreement should never be allowed to degenerate into personal humiliation.

Political decorum is not merely a matter of formal etiquette; it is an essential pillar of the democratic spirit. Governments will change, leaders will come and go, and the political fortunes of parties will rise and fall. But the words spoken in public life often remain etched in the collective memory of society long after the immediate controversy has faded.

LIGHT LAMPS OF HAPPINESS, DRIVE AWAY POLLUTION



DR. VIJAY GARG

Diwali is one of the most popular and joyous festivals in India. It symbolizes the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and good over evil. On this occasion, homes are decorated with traditional lamps, colourful lights, rangoli designs, and flowers. Families and friends exchange sweets and gifts, sharing happiness and strengthening relationships. However, amid these celebrations, we must remember that our traditions become truly meaningful when they also reflect our responsibility towards nature and the environment. Today, Diwali celebrations are increasingly accompanied by problems such as air pollution, noise pollution, plastic waste, and the excessive use of natural resources. Therefore, we need to preserve the spirit of the festival while making our celebrations environmentally responsible.

Firecracker Pollution and Its Impact on Health

Burning firecrackers releases smoke, fine particulate matter, and harmful gases into the atmosphere. These pollutants can deteriorate air quality and create health problems, particularly for children, older adults, and people with respiratory conditions. The loud noise of firecrackers also causes distress to people and animals, while birds may become frightened and disoriented. We must understand that the happiness of a festival should never come at the expense of another person's health and peace. Instead of firecrackers, we can celebrate with traditional oil lamps, cultural programmes, family gatherings, music, and community activities. Such celebrations can create lasting memories without placing an unnecessary burden on the environment.

> **Light lamps of happiness, drive away pollution. Preserve our traditions, protect our environment, and make every Diwali a celebration of compassion, cleanliness, and sustainability.**



Traditional Earthen Lamps and Indian Culture

The true beauty of Diwali lies in the gentle glow of traditional earthen lamps. Purchasing diyas made by local potters supports traditional craftsmanship and provides economic opportunities to small artisans. Homes can also be decorated with flowers, leaves, and reusable decorative materials. However, environmental protection involves more than simply lighting earthen lamps. We should use oil and wicks wisely, conserve electricity, reuse decorations, and dispose of waste responsibly. Energy-efficient LED lights can help reduce electricity consumption when used thoughtfully and for limited periods.

Cleanliness and Waste Management

Cleaning homes and surroundings before Diwali is an old and cherished tradition. Yet cleanliness should not be restricted to our houses. Streets, neighbourhoods, parks, and public spaces deserve equal attention. We should avoid plastic bags, thermocol decorations, and disposable items wherever possible. Gifts can be wrapped in reusable cloth or recyclable paper. Buying sweets and food according to actual needs can help prevent unnecessary waste. Safe surplus food can also be shared with people who need it. After the celebrations, firecracker remnants, paper, plastic, and other waste should be collected and disposed of properly rather than being left on roads or in public places. The true spirit of cleanliness is reflected in our willingness to take responsibility for the spaces we share.

Teaching Children to Protect the Environment

Children learn many of their habits by observing their families and communities. When parents celebrate an environmentally responsible Diwali, children are more likely to develop respect for nature. Schools can organise essay-writing competitions, poster-making activities, speeches, and awareness campaigns on the theme of a green Diwali. Such activities can help students understand the connection between festivals, public health, and environmental sustainability. Children should also learn that festivals are not merely about shopping and fireworks. They are opportunities to express love, kindness, cooperation, and social harmony. Helping disadvantaged families, spending time with older people, and showing compassion towards animals and birds can make Diwali more meaningful.

Simple Steps Towards an Eco-Friendly Diwali

We can make this festival more responsible by adopting a few practical measures:

- Avoid firecrackers to reduce air and noise pollution.
- Purchase earthen lamps and support local artisans.
- Save electricity and switch off unnecessary decorative lights.
- Avoid plastic and disposable decorative materials.
- Prevent food waste and share happiness with those in need.
- Collect and dispose of festival waste responsibly.
- Care for trees and plants and encourage environmental awareness.
- Teach children the importance of celebrating festivals without harming nature.

These small steps, when adopted by families, schools, neighbourhoods, and communities, can collectively make a significant difference.

Diwali is not merely a festival of lighting lamps; it is an opportunity to bring light, harmony, and positivity into our lives. If our celebrations damage the environment, we must reconsider the way we celebrate. A truly meaningful festival is one that respects human well-being, protects animals and birds, preserves nature, and safeguards the interests of future generations. Let us resolve to make this Diwali a celebration of light without pollution, happiness without waste, and traditions accompanied by responsibility. Let us light earthen lamps, bring smiles to the faces of those in need, and choose practices that protect our shared environment.

MANAGING WASTE TODAY SECURES OUR TOMORROW

R. SOLOMON PRASHANTH

Waste management is one of the most pressing environmental and logistical challenges facing modern society. As urban populations grow and consumption patterns shift, the volume of refuse generated daily continues to rise at an alarming rate. Traditional disposal methods, which rely heavily on overflowing landfills and open dumping, are no longer sustainable. Addressing this crisis requires a fundamental shift in how households and communities handle discarded materials. At the heart of this transformation lies a simple yet powerful practice: the strict separation of wet waste and dry waste at the source.



Wet waste primarily consists of organic matter such as leftover food, fruit peels, vegetable scraps, and garden trimmings. Because these items are biodegradable, they possess immense potential for resource recovery. When mixed with non-biodegradable refuse in landfills, organic waste decomposes anaerobically, producing harmful methane gas that accelerates climate change. Furthermore, this mixture generates toxic liquid leachate that seeps into the soil and contaminates underground water reserves. Separating wet waste allows municipalities to redirect organic matter toward composting and biogas generation, turning daily refuse into valuable agricultural fertilizer and renewable energy.

On the other hand, dry waste encompasses recyclable and non-biodegradable materials, including paper, cardboard, plastics, glass, metals, and packaging. Unlike organic matter, these items do not break down easily and can persist in the environment for centuries. When dry waste is contaminated by wet organic refuse, its recycling value diminishes drastically, forcing valuable resources into permanent waste streams. Keeping dry materials clean and segregated ensures they can be efficiently sorted, processed, and reintroduced into manufacturing cycles, thereby conserving raw materials and reducing industrial energy consumption.

Source segregation is not merely an operational convenience for sanitation workers; it is a shared civic responsibility. When citizens take the initiative to segregate waste within their homes, they directly ease the burden on municipal collection systems and protect frontline waste handlers from hazardous exposure. Mixing sharp objects, chemical residues, or sanitary items with organic waste poses severe health risks to those who manually sort refuse. Responsible waste segregation upholds dignity, safety, and hygiene for sanitation personnel while streamlining the entire recycling economy.

Educational institutions and community organizations must play an active role in fostering this habit from an early age. Integrating practical waste management lessons into daily routines helps cultivate long-term environmental consciousness among the younger generation. Local authorities can support these efforts by providing accessible dual-bin infrastructure, organizing regular awareness campaigns, and implementing transparent collection schedules. Clear guidelines and community incentives can further encourage compliance, transforming individual efforts into a collective movement.

Ultimately, effective waste management reflects a society's respect for its natural environment and future generations. Treating refuse as a resource rather than a nuisance requires discipline, awareness, and consistent action from every individual.

> *"By committing to the daily practice of separating wet and dry waste, communities can significantly reduce landfill footprints, conserve vital resources, and pave the way for a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable world."*
>
> **R. SOLOMON PRASHANTH**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Taming Urban Monsoon Chaos

The recurring urban flooding during every monsoon season highlights a severe gap in basic civic planning. Concrete structures continue to encroach upon natural lakes and traditional stormwater drains, leaving rainwater with nowhere to escape. Year after year, ordinary citizens suffer heavy property damage and lost work hours due to waterlogged roads and paralyzed public transport. Pothole-ridden roads turn into life-threatening hazards within hours of heavy rain. Local administrative bodies must focus on strict anti-encroachment drives, desilting of major drainage networks before the rainy season, and adopting permeable paving materials. Sustained infrastructure upgrades are urgently required to make our cities resilient.

– Sameer

Bridging the Skill Gap

Despite high economic growth, the increasing rate of unemployment among educated youth remains a deeply concerning issue. Millions of young graduates complete their degrees every year only to find a sharp mismatch between their academic training and current industry requirements. Theoretical degree programs must be urgently modernized to emphasize technical proficiency, vocational expertise, and critical problem-solving skills. Additionally, public and private sectors need to collaborate to expand paid apprenticeships and subsidize local small-scale enterprises that generate large-scale employment. Empowering the nation's youth with relevant, market-ready skills is crucial to securing their future and sustained national progress.

– Balu

Easing Everyday Kitchen Budgets

The relentless surge in the prices of essential food items, particularly vegetables, pulses, and cooking oil, is severely straining household budgets across lower and middle-income families. Erratic weather patterns, combined with supply chain bottlenecks and high transport costs, have caused retail market prices to skyrocket out of reach. While farmers often fail to get fair value for their produce due to middlemen, consumers pay exorbitant rates at local markets. Government intervention is essential to stabilize prices through strategic reserve releases, improved cold-storage infrastructure, and stricter checks on hoarding. Protecting everyday consumers from food inflation must be prioritized immediately.

– Harani

BODYBUILDING: BUILDING STRENGTH BEYOND PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Bodybuilding has grown from a specialised fitness activity into a popular lifestyle choice for people who wish to improve their strength, appearance and overall well-being. While many associate bodybuilding with muscular physiques and attractive appearances, its true value extends far beyond physical beauty. In my opinion, bodybuilding is a positive habit when practised with discipline, proper knowledge and a balanced approach to health.

One of the greatest benefits of bodybuilding is its contribution to physical fitness. Regular strength training helps develop muscles, strengthen bones and improve physical endurance. It can also support healthy body weight and make everyday activities easier. In an age when sedentary lifestyles and excessive screen time have become common, bodybuilding encourages people to become more active and take greater responsibility for their health.

Equally important are the mental benefits. Exercise can help reduce stress, improve mood and promote better sleep. The process of setting fitness goals and working consistently towards them teaches patience, determination and self-control. Unlike instant gratification, bodybuilding demands gradual progress. Results may take weeks or months to become visible, but the journey teaches an important lesson: meaningful achievements require sustained effort.

However, the growing popularity of bodybuilding has also created certain concerns. Social media often promotes unrealistic physical standards, encouraging people to compare themselves with heavily edited photographs and carefully presented images. Such comparisons can lead to insecurity, dissatisfaction and an unhealthy obsession with appearance. Fitness should improve confidence, not make individuals feel inadequate about their natural bodies.

Another serious concern is the misuse of performance-enhancing substances. Some individuals, driven by the desire to develop muscles quickly, may resort to steroids or unregulated products without understanding their potential consequences. Such practices can damage physical and mental health. Building a strong body should never come at the cost of long-term well-being. Natural progress, professional guidance and realistic expectations are far more valuable than rapid but risky transformations.



Nutrition and recovery are also essential components of effective bodybuilding. Exercise alone cannot produce the best results without a balanced diet, adequate hydration and sufficient sleep. The body needs appropriate amounts of protein, carbohydrates, healthy fats, vitamins and minerals to function properly and recover after training. Similarly, rest days are necessary because muscles require time to repair and adapt. Overtraining, extreme dieting and ignoring pain can turn a beneficial activity into a harmful one.

Accessibility is another aspect worth considering. Bodybuilding is often portrayed as an expensive pursuit requiring sophisticated equipment, costly supplements and specialised facilities. In reality, many strength-building exercises can be performed with basic equipment or body weight. What matters most is consistency, correct technique and a programme suited to an individual's age, fitness level and health needs. Schools, workplaces and communities can encourage healthier lifestyles by promoting physical activity and fitness awareness.

Ultimately, bodybuilding should not be judged solely by the size of a person's muscles or the shape of their body. Its real purpose should be to develop strength, improve health and cultivate discipline. A healthy body is not merely an object of admiration; it is an essential foundation for a productive and fulfilling life.

Bodybuilding deserves encouragement, but it must be practised responsibly. The emphasis should remain on health rather than vanity, progress rather than comparison, and discipline rather than shortcuts. When approached with the right attitude, bodybuilding becomes much more than a physical pursuit. Bodybuilding becomes a lifelong investment in personal well-being, confidence and resilience.

— SHAN

TRAVELLING BROADENS MINDS AND ENRICHES HUMAN LIVES

Travelling is one of the most rewarding experiences in human life. It offers an opportunity to explore unfamiliar surroundings, understand different cultures and gain knowledge beyond the boundaries of textbooks. In my opinion, travelling should not be considered merely a leisure activity or an escape from daily responsibilities. It is an essential part of personal development that broadens our outlook, strengthens our character and helps us appreciate the diversity of the world.



One of the greatest advantages of travelling is that it provides practical knowledge. Reading books and watching documentaries can introduce us to different societies, traditions and landscapes, but experiencing them personally creates a deeper impression. Meeting people with different customs, tasting unfamiliar food and observing distinct ways of life help us understand that the world is much more diverse than we often imagine. Such experiences encourage curiosity and replace prejudice with understanding.

Travelling also plays an important role in reducing stress and improving mental well-being. Modern life is often dominated by work pressure, deadlines, family responsibilities and constant digital distractions. A change of surroundings can provide a welcome break from these demands. Spending time in nature, walking through peaceful landscapes or enjoying a journey with loved ones can refresh the mind and restore energy. Even a short trip can offer a valuable opportunity to pause, reflect and return to everyday life with renewed enthusiasm.

Another significant benefit of travelling is the development of independence and confidence. Journeys do not always proceed according to plan. Delayed transport, unexpected weather, unfamiliar routes and communication difficulties may test our patience. Handling such situations teaches problem-solving, adaptability and decision-making. Travellers learn to accept uncertainty and discover that challenges can often be overcome through calm thinking and cooperation. These lessons are useful not only during journeys but also in professional and personal life.

Furthermore, travelling can strengthen relationships. Family holidays and trips with friends create shared memories that often remain meaningful for years. Travelling together encourages communication, cooperation and mutual understanding. It also provides an opportunity to spend quality time with people who may otherwise remain occupied with their daily routines. However, travelling alone can be equally valuable, as it allows individuals to understand their interests, reflect on their priorities and develop self-reliance.

Despite these advantages, travelling has certain drawbacks that should not be ignored. Excessive tourism can damage natural habitats, increase pollution and place pressure on local resources. Careless visitors may litter public spaces, disturb wildlife or disrespect local customs. In addition, poorly planned journeys can become expensive and exhausting. Therefore, responsible travelling is essential. Visitors should respect local traditions, avoid unnecessary waste, support local businesses and protect the natural environment. Planning within one's financial means also ensures that travel remains enjoyable rather than becoming a source of stress.

It is equally important to recognise that meaningful travel does not always require expensive holidays or distant destinations. Exploring nearby countryside, visiting historical structures, discovering local traditions or taking a short educational trip can be equally enriching. The value of travelling lies not in the amount of money spent or the distance covered, but in the knowledge and experiences gained.

In conclusion, travelling is much more than moving from one place to another. It is an opportunity to learn, grow and develop a broader understanding of humanity. It encourages open-mindedness, builds confidence and creates lasting memories. Although it must be undertaken responsibly and within one's means, travelling offers benefits that extend far beyond recreation.

"A journey may eventually come to an end, but the lessons it teaches and the perspectives it creates can remain with us throughout our lives."

— SHIVA

HIP-HOP CULTURE: A VOICE FOR YOUTH AND CHANGE

Hip-hop culture has emerged as one of the most influential forms of modern cultural expression. What began as a creative movement among young people has developed into a worldwide phenomenon encompassing music, dance, fashion, visual art and a distinctive way of communicating ideas. In my opinion, hip-hop is much more than entertainment. It is a powerful medium through which people express their experiences, challenge social inequalities and establish their identities in an ever-changing world.

One of the greatest strengths of hip-hop is its ability to give a voice to the unheard. Through rhythmic lyrics, energetic performances and creative storytelling, artists often discuss poverty, discrimination, unemployment, violence, ambition and the struggle for dignity. These themes connect with audiences who may feel ignored by mainstream society. Hip-hop demonstrates that creativity does not depend entirely on wealth or formal training; imagination, determination and a willingness to speak honestly can also produce meaningful art.

Another important aspect of hip-hop culture is its emphasis on individuality. Its distinctive clothing, dance movements, visual styles and musical experimentation encourage young people to explore their identities. Rather than simply following established traditions, participants often develop their own forms of expression. This freedom can promote confidence, originality and a sense of belonging. For many young people, hip-hop provides a community in which their talents and personal experiences are recognised and appreciated.

Hip-hop has also contributed significantly to cultural exchange. Its growing popularity across different societies has encouraged musicians, dancers and visual artists to combine traditional influences with contemporary styles. Local languages, regional rhythms and indigenous artistic traditions can become part of hip-hop performances, creating fresh forms of cultural expression. This adaptability proves that a global movement does not necessarily have to erase local identity. Instead, it can provide a platform for diverse cultures to communicate with one another.



However, the commercialisation of hip-hop raises important concerns. In some cases, the emphasis on expensive possessions, material success and public status overshadows the creativity and social awareness that helped shape the culture. Certain songs and performances may also glorify violence, substance misuse or disrespectful behaviour. Although artistic freedom must be protected, audiences should be encouraged to distinguish between creative expression and conduct that can have harmful consequences. Not every song represents the entire culture, and hip-hop should not be judged solely by its most controversial examples.

Social media has further transformed the movement. Independent creators can now share their work with large audiences without relying entirely on traditional entertainment industries. This has opened opportunities for emerging musicians, dancers and designers. At the same time, the pressure to gain attention quickly can encourage imitation, superficial trends and sensational content. Young artists must therefore recognise that lasting creativity requires practice, originality and a clear understanding of the messages they wish to communicate.

Education and responsible participation can help hip-hop fulfil its positive potential. Schools and community organisations can introduce young people to rap writing, dance, music production and other creative activities. Such programmes can encourage teamwork, discipline, critical thinking and constructive self-expression. They can also provide alternatives to harmful activities by giving young people meaningful opportunities to develop their talents.

Ultimately, hip-hop culture deserves to be understood as a diverse and evolving artistic movement rather than a passing fashion. Its greatest value lies in its ability to inspire creativity, question injustice and bring different communities together. While its commercial excesses and negative representations deserve criticism, its positive contributions should not be overlooked.

When guided by originality, responsibility and respect, hip-hop can remain a powerful voice for youth, a celebration of cultural diversity and an instrument of social change.

— ANNA B.

CLASSICAL MUSIC: PRESERVING HERITAGE THROUGH TIMELESS MELODIES

Classical music is one of the finest expressions of human creativity and cultural heritage. Rooted in tradition, discipline and artistic excellence, it has survived generations while continuing to inspire listeners across the world. Unlike musical forms that often depend on changing trends, classical music draws its strength from depth, structure and emotional richness. In my opinion, classical music deserves greater appreciation in modern society because it preserves cultural identity, nurtures intellectual development and offers a meaningful alternative to the constant noise of contemporary life.

One of the greatest qualities of classical music is its ability to communicate emotions without relying on words. A carefully performed melody can express joy, sorrow, devotion, longing and peace in ways that ordinary language sometimes cannot. Its beauty lies not merely in the notes themselves but in the subtle variations of rhythm, tone, tempo and expression. For attentive listeners, classical music becomes an experience that encourages reflection and creates a deep connection between the performer and the audience.

"In a world increasingly driven by speed and instant gratification, its enduring melodies offer a welcome reminder of the lasting value of depth, discipline and cultural continuity."

SUGANTHI B.

Classical music also plays an important role in preserving cultural heritage. Musical traditions carry the memories, beliefs and artistic values of generations. Through traditional compositions, instruments and performance techniques, communities pass their cultural knowledge from one generation to another. Such continuity is especially important in an age when globalisation and digital entertainment can sometimes overshadow local artistic traditions. Preserving classical music does not mean resisting change; rather, it means ensuring that valuable cultural knowledge remains alive while adapting to the needs of modern audiences.



Another significant advantage of classical music is the discipline required to learn and perform it. Students often spend years developing their sense of rhythm, mastering instruments, refining their voices and understanding complex musical structures. This process teaches patience, concentration, consistency and respect for practice. Learning classical music can also encourage careful listening, memory and emotional sensitivity. These qualities are valuable not only in artistic pursuits but also in education and everyday life.

Despite its many strengths, classical music faces challenges in attracting younger audiences. Contemporary entertainment is easily accessible, visually engaging and designed for quick consumption. Classical performances, by contrast, may require patience and familiarity with musical traditions to be fully appreciated. Some people mistakenly regard classical music as outdated, complicated or relevant only to older generations. This perception can limit its reach and discourage young people from exploring its richness.

The solution is not to criticise modern musical tastes but to make classical music more accessible. Educational institutions can introduce students to different musical traditions through interactive lessons, live demonstrations and practical workshops. Digital platforms can help performers reach new audiences, while collaborations between classical and contemporary musicians can encourage creative experimentation. Affordable concerts and community performances can also remove barriers that prevent people from experiencing classical music firsthand.

At the same time, preserving authenticity remains important. Excessive commercialisation may encourage performers and organisers to simplify traditional forms merely to attract attention. Innovation is valuable, but it should emerge from an understanding of the art rather than a desire to follow every passing trend. Experienced teachers and performers have an important responsibility to pass on their knowledge while encouraging the next generation to develop its own artistic voice.

Ultimately, classical music should not be viewed as a relic of the past but as a living cultural tradition with continuing relevance. Its ability to inspire, educate and bring people together makes it an invaluable part of human civilisation. By supporting music education, encouraging young performers and creating opportunities for wider public engagement, society can ensure that these traditions remain vibrant. Classical music reminds us that true artistic beauty often requires patience, dedication and attentive listening.

— SUGANTHI B.

Quick Read

Over 1.2 tonnes of suspected beef seized from train

NEW DELHI

Authorities seized approximately 1,286.35 kg of meat suspected to be beef from 20 cartons transported aboard the Dakshin Express from Hyderabad to Delhi, officials said on Monday. The consignment was found at the New Washing Line railway yard near Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station. Railway officials received information about the suspected transportation of beef from the Railway Vigilance Unit at Baroda House around 9 am on Sunday.Police, along with a Forensic Science Laboratory team and a veterinary doctor, collected samples for examination and completed the required legal formalities.
The packages had been booked under the descriptions of "Mutton" and "Meat".

10 admitted with firecracker-related eye injuries

HYDERABAD

At least 10 people have been admitted to Government Sarojini Devi Eye Hospital in Hyderabad with firecracker-related eye injuries following Diwali celebrations, hospital officials said on Monday. Hospital Superintendent Dr P. Modini said eight patients had been scheduled for surgery, while two were reported to be in serious condition. Around 50 to 55 people with similar injuries visited the hospital's outpatient department on Sunday.Doctors warned that some patients could suffer permanent vision loss due to corneal damage. The hospital has reserved 25 beds for firecracker-related injuries. Doctors urged parents to supervise children and advised victims to seek immediate medical attention after eye injuries.

Three-year-old allegedly sexually assaulted in Goa

MAPUSA

A three-year-old girl was allegedly sexually assaulted by an unidentified person inside a dilapidated building in Mapusa, North Goa, prompting police to launch a search operation on Monday.The child was found crying outside the building on Sunday evening. A passerby noticed her and alerted local residents, who informed the police.She was initially taken to Mapusa District Hospital in critical condition before being shifted to Goa Medical College and Hospital for further treatment. Police said her condition was stable.Police have registered a case and are examining CCTV footage from the area to identify and trace the accused.

Mammootty's visit to BJP leader's home sparks row

THRISSUR

Malayalam actor Mammootty's visit to the residence of BJP state vice-president B. Gopalakrishnan in Thrissur has triggered criticism on social media, prompting the BJP leader to condemn the online attacks and call for political harmony.Meanwhile, senior CPI(M) leader Thomas Isaac distanced the party from the online criticism, stating that those involved were not party activists.

Madhya Pradesh rewards 466 livestock farmers with ₹2.95 crore

Madhya Pradesh transfers ₹2.95 crore in awards to 466 livestock farmers, while doubling financial assistance for cattle maintenance across registered gaushalas.

BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Monday transferred ₹2.95 crore in prize money to 466 livestock farmers selected under the Gopal-Krishna Gram Award Scheme 2026-27. The awards were presented during a state-level Govardhan Puja celebration and livestock farmers' felicitation ceremony at Ravindra Bhawan in Bhopal.

Under the scheme, farmers received first, second and third prizes of ₹1 lakh, ₹50,000 and ₹25,000, respectively. The winners were selected through a milk production competition conducted from October 27 to 31 across 208 designated Vrindavan villages in the state.

₹65.66 crore for gaushalas

The Chief Minister also released ₹65.66 crore in grants for maintaining more than 5.51 lakh cattle housed in over 3,000 registered gaushalas across Madhya Pradesh. He announced that financial assistance for cattle upkeep had been increased from ₹20 to ₹40 per cow to improve animal care and ensure adequate nutritious fodder.

Addressing the gathering, Yadav highlighted the importance of cattle protection and the economic welfare of livestock farmers. He said the government was strengthening dairy cooperatives under the White Revolution 2.0 initiative, aiming to make Madhya Pradesh the country's milk capital within two years.



The state-level Govardhan Puja and livestock farmers' felicitation ceremony at Ravindra Bhawan in Bhopal on Monday

The state has set a target of increasing daily milk collection capacity from 12 lakh kg to 52 lakh kg.

He also encouraged farmers to rear improved cattle breeds, particularly Gir and Sahiwal cows, to increase milk production.

Cattle upkeep aid

BEFORE	NOW
₹20 per cow	₹40 doubled

Punjab records 4,459 stubble burning cases, imposes fines

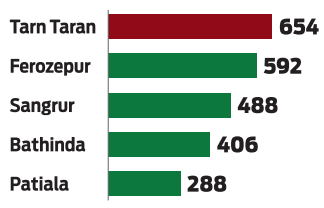
PATIALA

Punjab has recorded 4,459 incidents of stubble burning as of November 8, according to data released by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), amid growing concerns over worsening air pollution in northern India. Authorities have conducted physical inspections at 2,998 locations, confirming evidence of crop residue burning at 1,310 sites. Environmental compensation has been imposed in 1,228 cases, with fines totalling ₹62.55 lakh. Of this amount, ₹32.60 lakh has been recovered so far.

The authorities have also registered 884 First Information Reports under Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Red entries have been recorded in the land records of 1,017 farms, while prosecution proceedings have been initiated against 18 nodal officers under Section 14 of the CAQM Act.


Crop residue burning in a paddy field

Farm fires by district
Incidents to November 8



Figures: CAQM data in the report

Tarn Taran tops the list

Tarn Taran district reported the highest number of incidents at 654, followed by Ferozepur with 592, Sangrur with 488, Bathinda with 406 and Patiala with 288. Inspections confirmed stubble burning at 306 locations in Tarn Taran and 247 in Ferozepur. Meanwhile, harvesting has been completed across 91.40 per cent of Punjab's total paddy cultivation area, covering 32.87 lakh hectares.

Delhi's air near severe

The developments come as Delhi continues to experience severe air pollution. The Central Pollution Control Board reported that the city's Air Quality Index approached the severe category on Monday morning, touching the 400 mark. Several monitoring stations recorded readings above 400, with Burari Crossing registering 441, followed by Vivek Vihar at 437 and Delhi Technological University at 434.

Meanwhile, Aam Aadmi Party's Delhi president Saurabh Bhardwaj accused the government of manipulating pollution data. He alleged that monitoring stations had been shut down and new stations installed in greener locations to influence readings. He also claimed that water was being sprinkled near monitoring equipment in polluted areas.

Tamil Nadu announces ₹40 lakh aid after police officer dies in alleged assault


Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay

Tamil Nadu announces ₹40 lakh compensation for a police officer who died after an alleged assault while managing a firecracker-related disturbance.

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Monday announced an ex-gratia payment of ₹40 lakh to the family of Special Sub-Inspector K. Senthil Kumar, 57, who died after allegedly being assaulted while on duty in Theni district on Sunday night. The Chief Minister also expressed condolences to the officer's family, relatives and colleagues, describing his death as an irreparable loss to the police department.

Senthil Kumar was attached to the Palanichettipatti Police Station and deputed to the office of the Theni Deputy Superintendent of Police. According to the Chief Minister's statement, the officer was on duty in the Samatharmapuram area when he noticed a group of people bursting firecrackers across a road. Their actions reportedly created a safety hazard and obstructed traffic.

The officer advised the group to move away to prevent inconvenience to the public. He also attempted to record their activities on his mobile phone. When he tried to apprehend one of the youths, a person allegedly struck him with an elbow, causing him to lose his balance and fall to the ground.

In focus

- ₹40 lakh — ex-gratia for the family
- 57 — age of SSI K. Senthil Kumar
- 3 — arrested in the case

Elbowed during arrest bid

A patrolling police team rushed to the location and arranged medical assistance. Senthil Kumar was initially taken to a nearby private hospital and later shifted to the Theni Government Medical College Hospital for further treatment. However, he succumbed to his injuries despite medical intervention.

Three held

Following an inspection of the scene, the Theni District Superintendent of Police confirmed that three people from the locality had been arrested in connection with the incident. Further investigation is expected to establish the circumstances surrounding the officer's death and the alleged assault.

Announcing the financial assistance, Vijay conveyed his deepest sympathies to the bereaved family and those who worked with the officer. He said the government had ordered the release of ₹40 lakh as relief to support the family following their loss.

Tiruchirappalli city clears 800 tonnes of Diwali waste

TIRUCHIRAPPALLI

The Tiruchirappalli City Corporation has removed approximately 800 tonnes of garbage from the city's commercial areas following Diwali celebrations, deploying hundreds of sanitation workers to restore cleanliness. The large-scale cleaning operation comes after heavy festival shopping and celebrations generated substantial waste across busy streets surrounding the historic Rockfort area.

Major commercial locations, including NSB Road, Teppakulam, Periyakadai Veethi, Chinnakadai Veethi, Melapulivaar Road and College Road, witnessed heavy crowds during the final days of Diwali shopping.

The accumulated waste includes plastic bags, polythene covers, paper, empty sweet and firecracker boxes, firecracker remnants and used banana leaves. The Corporation, which normally collects around 480 tonnes of garbage daily from its 65 wards, has intensified its sanitation operations to manage the additional festival waste.

Around 400 sanitation workers have been deployed exclusively in key commercial areas, including Rockfort, Singarathope, Super Bazaar, Periyakadai Veethi, Chinnakadai Veethi and Gandhi Market Road. Additionally, 1,150 workers have been engaged across the city to ensure that garbage is cleared and normal conditions are restored.


Sanitation workers clear festival waste from a shopping street

The quantity of waste collected this year is higher than the approximately 780 tonnes removed after last year's Diwali celebrations. Officials have undertaken the operation on a large scale to prevent waste accumulation from affecting public movement and commercial activities.

Last year, rainfall created difficulties for sanitation workers and slowed garbage clearance. However, the absence of rain this year has allowed the workforce to carry out cleaning activities more efficiently.

7 killed after truck rams into van carrying body, mourners in Jharkhand

HAZARIBAG/RANCHI

A truck rammed into a pick-up van carrying a body and mourners to Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh to perform the last rites, killing seven people and injuring 12 others in Jharkhand's Hazaribag district on Monday, police said.

According to police, the vehicle had made a pit stop at Mahanetand near Danua valley around 10.30 am when a truck hit it from behind, killing five people on the spot, while two died in a hospital.

The pick-up van carrying 19 people overturned under the impact of the collision, throwing several passengers onto the road, Chouparan police station in-charge Pankaj Kumar said.

The injured people have been admitted to hospitals in Hazaribag and Barhi, and three of them were in a critical state, he said.

The deceased were identified as Dhokla Kumar (45), Budhni Devi (50), Ramkisun Mahto (50), Rameshwar Kumar (70), and Raju Pandit (40). Two other victims, Savitri Devi and Rubia Devi, succumbed to their injuries while undergoing treatment, and their ages were not immediately known.



Dr Ashutosh Jha, who treated the injured at Sheikh Bhikhari Medical College and Hospital in Hazaribag, said one critically injured person was referred to Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) in Ranchi.

The truck driver fled soon after the incident, and a search was underway to arrest him, Kumar said.

Senior BJP leader Arjun Munda expressed shock at the accident.

"It is extremely unfortunate that a family travelling to Varanasi to attend the funeral of a person fell victim to this tragic accident," the former chief minister said in a statement.



6 OF FAMILY DEAD IN FIRE IN HOUSE-CUM-SHOP IN MAHA

Dharashiv: Six members of a family died after a fire broke out in a residence-cum-shop in Maharashtra's Dharashiv district on Monday, police said. The fire broke out around 2:45 am when the Karande family members were asleep on the first floor of their residence at Yedshi, which also housed a cloth shop, police said. All of them died due to suffocation, police said. The neighbours made efforts to break into the house after the fire broke out, but their efforts were in vain, they added. The fire intensified quickly as the shop on the ground floor also had plastic items and oil stock, an official said. One person has survived and is in a stable condition at present, the official added. Police identified the deceased as Uttam Karande, Chandrakala Karande, Govind Karande, Gayatri Karande, Jyoti Karande and Siddhi Karande. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained, but preliminary reports suggest it was due to a 'panati' (small clay oil lamp or diya) lit on the premises, police said.

CANCER DRUG PRICE CUTS

Revised prices of 1,364 cancer drug formulations take effect

NEW DELHI

Revised maximum retail prices (MRPs) of 1,364 anti-cancer medicine formulations came into effect across India on Monday, following a government decision to regulate trade margins and make essential cancer treatments more affordable. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, has capped trade margins on 137 anti-cancer drugs based on recommendations from an expert committee constituted by the Directorate General of Health Services on October 17, 2026.

According to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, 85 pharmaceutical companies had reported revised prices for 1,364 formulations covering 121 drugs as of November 8. Among these, 679 brands recorded price reductions exceeding 50 per cent. The highest reported reduction in the maximum retail price stands at 96.45 per cent, offering significant relief to patients and their families.

Check the new prices

The government estimates that the price revisions will generate annual savings of approximately ₹3,540.38 crore for consumers. Patients can check the updated prices printed on medicine packages or verify them through the Pharma Sahi Daam mobile application and the NPPA website. Retailers and hospital pharmacies are prohibited from charging more than the revised MRP.

Consumers who face overcharging or other pricing-related issues can register complaints through the Pharma Jan Samadhan portal or contact the NPPA helpline at 1800-111-255.

At a glance

FORMULATIONS: 1,364	BRANDS CUT OVER 50%: 679
HIGHEST MRP CUT: 96.45%	YEARLY SAVINGS: ₹3,540.38 crore
DRUGS UNDER MARGIN CAP: 137	NPPA HELPLINE: 1800-111-255


Revised MRPs now apply to 1,364 anti-cancer formulations

The regulatory provisions were introduced through notification SO 5690 (E), dated October 17, 2026, and will remain in force until further orders. Drug manufacturers can still seek annual price adjustments under Paragraph 20(1) of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013, provided they comply with the prescribed 30 per cent trade margin limit.

The rules also require retailers, pharmacies, hospitals and medical institutions to prominently display revised price lists at their premises and on their official websites.

Quick Read

Murder convict allegedly visited Thailand; warder suspended

JAIPUR

A murder convict serving a life sentence at an open prison in Rajasthan's Sri Ganganagar district allegedly travelled to Thailand for five days in October 2025, with the help of a prison warder who falsified his attendance records.

The convict, Dikshant Kamra, reportedly travelled abroad between October 9 and 13. A preliminary inquiry found that warder Hapuram had marked him present during his absence and submitted false attendance reports. The warder has since been suspended, and a police complaint has been filed.

The investigation began after a woman complained to Rajasthan's Director General of Prisons, alleging that Kamra had deceived and harassed her. Police also recovered around 40 grams of opium and his passport from a car on November 3.

Kamra is serving a life sentence for the 2018 murder of Dushyant Sharma, popularly known as the Jaipur Tinder murder case. A court convicted Kamra and two others in November 2023.

Delhi AQI crosses 1,000 on private platforms amid confusion

NEW DELHI

Delhi witnessed a sharp deterioration in air quality following Deepavali celebrations, with official monitoring stations recording readings in the severe category while private platforms reported AQI levels exceeding 1,000 in some neighbourhoods. The conflicting figures raised questions about differences in air-quality measurement systems.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) recorded an AQI of 483 at 8.10 am on Monday, with at least 15 monitoring stations reporting readings above 400. Meanwhile, Swiss-based monitoring company IQAir reported levels exceeding 1,000 in areas such as Shahdara and Defence Colony.

Experts attribute the difference largely to variations in measurement methods. India's CPCB uses an AQI scale ranging from zero to 500. Readings exceeding the upper limit are displayed as 500 or 500-plus, regardless of how far pollution levels rise beyond that threshold.

Several Delhi neighbourhoods recorded particularly high pollution levels. Vivek Vihar registered an AQI of 445, while Burari Crossing recorded 441. Jahangirpuri reported readings between 433 and 442, followed by Rohini and Delhi Technological University, which recorded levels above 430. Other affected locations included North Campus, Bawana, Ghazipur, Mundka and Punjabi Bagh.

The pollution spike occurred despite Stage III restrictions under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), introduced before Deepavali. Measures include halting non-essential construction, imposing stricter vehicle restrictions and shifting primary school classes to hybrid mode.

Naidu urges Modi to scrap ₹500 and ₹2,000 notes

NAIDU RENEWED HIS PROPOSAL TO REDUCE HIGH-VALUE CASH USAGE, PRESENTING DIGITAL CURRENCY AND TECHNOLOGY-DRIVEN GOVERNANCE AS KEY MEASURES TO TACKLE CORRUPTION AND PROMOTE ECONOMIC GROWTH.



AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday called for scrapping high-denomination currency notes of ₹500 and ₹2,000, arguing that limiting high-value cash transactions could help curb corruption, encourage wealth creation and reduce poverty.

Speaking at a press conference, Naidu strongly advocated digital currency and technology-driven governance. He said he had previously submitted recommendations for a digital currency report and had repeatedly urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to consider the proposal.

> **"Currency denominations of ₹500, ₹1,000 and ₹2,000 should be scrapped. Only ₹100 and ₹200 notes should remain."**
>
> — N. Chandrababu Naidu, Andhra Pradesh CM

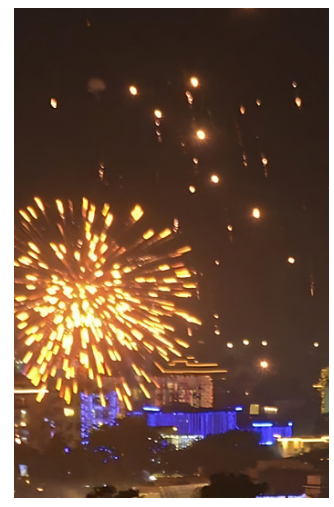
"I am demanding it again now. Currency denominations of ₹500, ₹1,000 and ₹2,000 should be scrapped. Only ₹100 and ₹200 notes should remain," he said.

His remarks came a day after the 10th anniversary of demonetisation, announced on November 8, 2016, when the Centre withdrew ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes from circulation to tackle black money, counterfeit currency and corruption.

Naidu said flaws in existing systems had created a cycle of corruption that required technological intervention.

The Telugu Desam Party chief also called for reducing money power in electoral politics. He said elections should focus on public service rather than financial influence and claimed that the NDA had taken steps to curb cash distribution during campaigns.

Mumbai bans rockets, aerial firecrackers until Nov 25



Mumbai authorities have banned rockets and aerial firecrackers until November 25, citing fire risks following multiple incidents during Diwali celebrations.

The ban

WHAT	Rockets and aerial firecrackers
WHERE	Buildings, rooftops, balconies and slums in BMC limits
UNTIL	11.59 pm, November 25

MUMBAI

The Mumbai Disaster Management Authority on Monday prohibited the bursting of rockets and aerial firecrackers across the city until November 25, following multiple fire incidents reported during Diwali celebrations.

The restriction applies to residential buildings, rooftops, balconies and slum areas within the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) limits. According to the order signed by Additional Municipal Commissioner Prajakta Verma-Lavangare, the ban will remain effective from November 9 until 11.59 pm on November 25.

Fire risk in dense areas

The authority said rockets and other aerial firecrackers could land on rooftops, balconies, windows and other combustible materials, triggering fires. The danger is particularly high in densely populated neighbourhoods, high-rise buildings, slum settlements and areas with narrow roads and closely packed residential and commercial structures.

Three major fires

Three major fires were reported in different parts of Mumbai on Diwali night, damaging several huts, shops, a garage and portions of a commercial building. The authority clarified that the use of firecrackers other than rockets and similar aerial varieties would continue to be governed by existing laws, court orders and directions from competent authorities.

Mayor appeals to residents

Meanwhile, Mumbai Mayor Ritu Tawde appealed to residents to celebrate responsibly and avoid bursting firecrackers near residential buildings and on footpaths. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray also urged the police and administration to take action in cases where rockets enter homes and cause fires. He called for an explanation from the authorities over such incidents.

Navy to graduate record 3,300 Agniveers at Chilka

BHUBANESWAR



The Indian Navy will conduct the Passing Out Parade (POP) of its ninth batch of Agniveers and Indian Coast Guard Naviks at INS Chilka in Odisha on November 13. More than 3,300 trainees will graduate after completing 16 weeks of intensive training, marking the largest-ever batch to pass out from the naval training establishment.

According to INS Chilka, the training programme is designed to prepare young recruits for professional responsibilities through academic instruction, physical conditioning, swimming, parade practice, outdoor activities and training camps.

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Krishna Swaminathan will attend the ceremony as the chief guest and reviewing officer. The parade will mark the completion of the recruits' initial training and their transition towards professional service in the maritime forces.

The training programme has also emphasised character development, leadership, discipline, teamwork and camaraderie while promoting the core naval values of Duty, Honour and Courage.

Vice Admiral Sameer Saxena, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Southern Naval Command, will preside over the valedictory function. Awards will be presented to outstanding trainees, the champion division and the best instructor in recognition of their achievements and contributions.

The occasion will also feature the unveiling of 'Ankur', a bilingual magazine prepared by the trainees.

The parade

WHEN	November 13
WHERE	INS Chilka, Odisha
TRAINEES	More than 3,300
TRAINING	16 weeks

Amit Shah opens ₹464-crore elevated corridor in Ahmedabad



AHMEDABAD

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday inaugurated a newly constructed six-lane elevated corridor connecting ISKCON Junction to the Sanand Flyover on Ahmedabad's busy Sarkhej-Gandhinagar (SG) Highway. The 4.03-kilometre-long overbridge, built at an estimated cost of ₹464 crore, is expected to ease traffic congestion and improve connectivity across the city.

The project is designed to benefit approximately 1.5 lakh motorists who use the busy route daily. It is also expected to reduce travel time and fuel consumption while improving connectivity between Ahmedabad and the industrial hub of Sanand.

Shared on X

Following the inauguration, Shah shared details of the project on social media platform X.

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel welcomed the development, describing it as an important step towards strengthening Ahmedabad's urban transport network. He called the project a gift to the city's residents ahead of the New Year and highlighted its potential to make journeys smoother and safer.

Patel said the corridor would help reduce congestion at major junctions along the SG Highway, while saving commuters valuable time and fuel. The elevated stretch is expected to support smoother movement of vehicles and improve access to the Sanand industrial area.

ED attaches Kashmir assets worth ₹10.63 crore

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) attached immovable properties worth ₹10.63 crore in Kashmir over the alleged misuse of the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP). The agency said the attachment covers 11 land parcels and buildings in Srinagar and Bandipora districts.

The ED's Srinagar zonal office took action under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), following a provisional attachment order. The properties were allegedly held by suppliers-cum-brokers and a bank official accused of involvement in the scheme's misuse.

The investigation began after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registered two FIRs in Srinagar. These alleged that PMEGP loans were misappropriated through a conspiracy involving borrowers, officials of J&K Bank branches in Sumbal and Gamud Gadkhud, brokers and unidentified persons.

THE PMEGP CASE

₹10.63 cr	PROPERTIES ATTACHED
₹11.37 cr	ALLEGED PROCEEDS TRACED
₹32 cr	BAD LOANS OUTSTANDING

According to the ED, dummy borrowers were allegedly used to obtain loans through fake invoices issued by non-existent firms.

A survey of the two branches under Section 16 of the PMLA identified 270 term-loan accounts and 270 working-capital accounts linked to the scheme that had become non-performing assets. The outstanding amount was estimated at around ₹32 crore.

The ED said it had traced alleged proceeds of crime worth ₹11.37 crore. The money was reportedly routed through multiple bank accounts, with part used to construct or renovate properties and for personal enrichment.

Keralam begins random ethanol checks at petrol outlets

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



The Keralam government has begun random ethanol testing at selected petrol outlets across four districts following concerns over allegations of excessive ethanol content in fuel supplied in neighbouring Karnataka.

Food and Civil Supplies Minister Anoop Jacob said inspections were ordered after complaints about vehicle damage and public concerns over petrol potentially containing ethanol beyond the permitted limit. Samples are being collected from fuel stations in Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam, Kozhikode and Kannur districts.

The collected samples will be sent to government laboratories, with test results expected within 10 days. Jacob said petrol cannot contain more than 20 per cent ethanol and warned that outlets found violating the prescribed limit could be sealed.

The minister said the inspections were necessary to address public concerns and ensure fuel quality.

? THE 20 % LIMIT

Petrol cannot contain more than 20 per cent ethanol. Tests in Karnataka reportedly recorded levels as high as 31.2 per cent.

The move follows allegations by Karnataka authorities that petrol supplied by major oil marketing companies contained ethanol levels exceeding the prescribed 20 per cent limit. Tests conducted on samples collected from several districts reportedly recorded levels as high as 31.2 per cent.

However, public sector oil marketing companies have rejected the allegations, maintaining that their E20 petrol complies with the Bureau of Indian Standards specification IS 17021.

Tripura civic polls clear 859 candidates' nominations

AGARTALA

The nomination papers of 859 candidates have been accepted for the upcoming civic elections across 21 urban local bodies in Tripura, while 49 nominations submitted by 20 candidates were rejected during scrutiny, officials said on Monday.

A total of 1,109 nomination papers were filed by 879 candidates contesting elections to the Agartala Municipal Corporation (AMC), 20 municipal councils and Nagar Panchayats. State Election Commission Secretary Anurag Sen said the scrutiny process had been completed, with 859 candidates declared eligible to contest.

Among those whose nominations were accepted, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) accounted for 342 candidates, followed by the Communist Party of India (Marxist) with 251 and the Indian National Congress with 216. The Tipra Motha Party had 15 candidates, while 35 candidates belonged to other parties or were contesting as independents.

The Agartala Municipal Corporation, comprising 51 wards, recorded the highest number of valid nominations at 164. Dharmanagar Municipal Council followed with 75 candidates, while Udaipur recorded 64. Kailashahar had 54 valid nominations, Ambassa 47 and Belonia 45.

The final candidate list will be published after the nomination withdrawal deadline ends on November 10.

State Election Commissioner Pradip Chakraborty said adequate security arrangements had been made during the nomination filing process.

The arrangements were made in response to directions from the Tripura High Court, which had asked authorities to provide security during the nomination process.

SPLASHBI HYDERABAD EXPANSION

SplashBI announces $100 million Hyderabad expansion plan

HYDERABAD



Enterprise data intelligence company SplashBI has inaugurated a Global Capability Centre (GCC) at VSD Tech Park in Hyderabad's Financial District, announcing an investment of more than $100 million over the next five to seven years. The expansion will strengthen its technology and artificial intelligence capabilities.

The 20,000-square-foot facility can accommodate 275 professionals and was inaugurated by Telangana IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu. The company allocated $4 million for an AI data centre to support enterprise data intelligence solutions.

The centre will serve as a hub for platform engineering, artificial intelligence, data science, analytics and customer delivery. It will bring SplashBI's Hyderabad teams together for product development and customer engagement. The company has operated in Hyderabad since 2014 and serves more than 500 enterprise customers across 39 countries.

$100 mn+	275	500+
over 5-7 years	professionals	customers, 39 countries

Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder Naveen Miglani said businesses needed ways to convert data into decisions. He said connecting information across departments and understanding its context were essential to making AI and analytics more effective.

President and Co-Founder Kiran Reddy Pasham said Hyderabad offered a technology ecosystem, combining expertise in data architecture, business processes and engineering.

The centre will develop SplashBI's data intelligence platform, including SplashAI, data connectivity, business modelling and analytics.

The company is focusing on improving AI readiness through business data models covering human resources, finance, sales, operations and supply chains.

Quick Read

Sensex, Nifty end higher in volatile trade

MUMBAI

Indian benchmark indices closed higher on Monday after a volatile and range-bound trading session, supported by strong buying in PSU bank and pharmaceutical stocks. The 30-share Sensex gained 107.25 points, or 0.13%, to settle at 81,106.65, while the Nifty advanced 58.25 points, or 0.23%, to close at 25,044.65.

Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that immediate resistance remains in the 25,150–25,200 zone. A sustained breakout above this range could reinforce the bullish momentum and open the way for further upside.

Large caps outperform broader market in October

NEW DELHI

India's benchmark index Nifty was the only major market-cap index on NSE that posted positive returns in October, gaining 1.91%, while broader market segments ended lower, led by sharp declines in microcap and smallcap stocks, a report said on Monday. The report from Motilal Oswal Mutual Fund said the Nifty Next 50 fell 2.92% during the month, while the Nifty Midcap 150 dropped 3.75%. The Nifty Smallcap 250 fell 5.81% and the Nifty Microcap 250 lost 8.95%, witnessing sharper falls than midcaps.



'China using cheap finance to spread its footprint in Central Asia'

NEW DELHI

For Kazakhstan and other Central Asian economies seeking affordable capital to fund infrastructure, industrial expansion and trade, Chinese financing has become an increasingly appealing option, yet behind these favourable terms lies a broader strategic picture that extends far beyond simple economics.

Kazakhstan, the region's largest economy, sits at the crossroads of the Belt and Road Initiative, linking China with Europe, Russia and the Middle East.

By offering low-cost financing, Beijing is steadily embedding itself within Kazakhstan's economic architecture.

The attraction of Chinese financing is straightforward: Chinese capital markets possess abundant liquidity, and Beijing has demonstrated a willingness to support cross-border projects that align with its strategic interests. For Central Asian governments and corporations facing tighter global credit conditions, borrowing in yuan can significantly reduce financing costs.

The ability to raise funds directly in Chinese currency is especially useful for entities purchasing machinery, industrial equipment, telecommunications systems and other goods from Chinese suppliers. However, this creates a self-reinforcing cycle: more trade with China increases demand for yuan financing, while greater yuan financing encourages further trade with China.

Beyond Kazakhstan, similar dynamics are visible across parts of Central Asia.

India, EU review progress of strategic partnership

Both sides reviewed engagements towards boosting trade and investment cooperation, including the timely signing and implementation of the India-EU FTA.

NEW DELHI

India and the European Union (EU) on Monday reviewed the progress of their Strategic Partnership during the seventh India-EU Strategic Partnership Review Meeting held in New Delhi, with discussions covering trade, investment, economic security, clean energy transition and critical technologies.

The meeting was co-chaired by Secretary (West) Sibi George and Matti Maasikas, Deputy Secretary-General for Geoeconomics and Interinstitutional Issues of the European Union.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), both sides reviewed the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Strategic Agenda adopted at the India-EU Summit in January 2026.

The discussions covered the full spectrum of bilateral cooperation, including trade and investment under the proposed India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA), supply chains, economic security, clean transition, research, connectivity, critical technologies, talent mobility and people-to-people exchanges.



The review comes ahead of the expected formal signing of the India-EU trade agreement. Last month, European Council President Antonio Costa said Prime Minister Narendra Modi would visit Brussels in December to sign the agreement.

India and the European Union concluded negotiations on the FTA earlier this year. The proposed agreement is expected to create a market covering more than two billion people and accounting for approximately a quarter of the global economy.

2 bn+

people in the market the proposed India-EU FTA would create, about a quarter of the global economy

Meanwhile, India and the EU completed negotiations on Saturday for India's association with Horizon Europe, the European Union's flagship research and innovation programme.

The association is expected to strengthen long-term research cooperation by enabling Indian researchers, institutions and industries to participate in funding opportunities through collaborative projects.

It will also provide access to European research consortia and advanced research infrastructure, while promoting talent mobility and the joint development of critical technologies, standards and solutions.

Tamil Nadu plans to buy 3,500 MW of thermal power



CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation has initiated advance arrangements to procure 3,500 megawatts (MW) of thermal power to meet the anticipated rise in electricity consumption during the summer of 2027.

The corporation has invited tenders from eligible power generation companies for supplying electricity between January 2027 and June 15, 2027, covering approximately five-and-a-half months when demand is expected to increase significantly.

The proposed procurement is aimed at ensuring an uninterrupted electricity supply to domestic consumers, commercial establishments, industries and agricultural operations across the state during the peak summer period.

Officials said advance procurement would help Tamil Nadu avoid unexpected power shortages and minimise the possibility of disruptions in electricity distribution during periods of exceptionally high demand.

Tamil Nadu traditionally experiences a substantial rise in electricity consumption during summer, particularly between March and May.

Under the proposed arrangement, the corporation intends to secure 3,500 MW of electricity from thermal power generation facilities operated by private companies and other eligible producers.

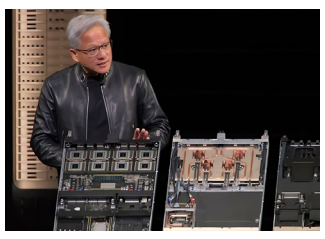
The tender process will enable qualified power suppliers to participate by submitting competitive bids.

The advance procurement plan is intended to provide greater certainty over electricity availability during the summer months and help the state prepare for fluctuations in consumption.

Key details

POWER	3,500 MW of thermal power
PERIOD	January 2027 to June 15, 2027
FROM	Private generators and other eligible producers
HOW	Competitive bidding

Nvidia board can remove Huang as CEO, says report



NEW DELHI

Nvidia's board has the authority to remove founder and Chief Executive Officer Jensen Huang from his executive role through a majority vote of directors in office without a criminal finding or conviction, although removing him as a board director would require shareholder approval under separate procedures, according to a report.

The report from NDTV Profit said Nvidia's amended and restated bylaws, dated March 12, 2024, allow any company officer to be removed with or without cause through the affirmative vote of a majority of directors.

Who can remove Huang?

Q As CEO?
A The board, by a majority vote of the directors in office, with or without cause.

Q As a director?
A Shareholders: a majority vote with cause, or at least 66.67% of the voting power without one.

Nvidia's bylaws provide for director removal with cause through a majority shareholder vote. Director removal without providing a cause requires a shareholder vote representing at least 66.67 per cent of the company's outstanding voting power.

Nvidia on November 8 launched an independent investigation into reports that Huang was targeted by a spy of a foreign intelligence operation purportedly through a personal relationship.

The inquiry follows allegations involving Alice Huang, an executive at Singapore-based Megaspeed, a major Nvidia customer that reportedly purchased more than $4.8 billion worth of Nvidia chips over two years.

US-based companies have removed chief executives several times over personal relationships that violated internal policies.

China on October 30 dismissed claims that it had spied on Jensen Huang, chief executive of US chip giant Nvidia, calling such claims "baseless," according to media reports from Beijing.

Govt extends deepsea oil, gas block bidding deadline

NEW DELHI

The government has extended the deadline for submitting bids for deepwater and ultra-deepwater oil and gas exploration blocks under its 10th and 11th Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) rounds to December 10, marking the seventh postponement for OALP-X and the third for OALP-XI.

The latest extension gives prospective investors nearly a month more to assess the offshore acreage on offer amid efforts to attract investment into India's technically challenging deepwater exploration sector. The Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH), under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, has revised the bidding deadline for deepwater and ultra-deepwater blocks in OALP-X and OALP-XI to December 10.



? SAMUDRA MANTHAN

The Rs 84,084-crore offshore exploration scheme covers up to 50 per cent of eligible deepwater drilling costs, capped at Rs 675 crore a well. Its operating guidelines were released on October 22.

While the government did not specify the reason for the extension, multiple media reports suggested that it could be linked to the government's Rs 84,084-crore Samudra Manthan National Offshore Exploration Scheme, whose operating guidelines were released on October 22.

The scheme provides government support of up to 50 per cent of eligible deepwater exploration drilling costs, subject to a ceiling of Rs 675 crore per well. The extension would give companies more time to evaluate the financial support framework and the economics of the blocks.

OALP-X was launched in 2025 with 25 blocks covering around 1.83 lakh sq km across 13 sedimentary basins.

Bidding for onshore and shallow-water blocks closed in June, while the deadline for deepwater and ultra-deepwater acreage was extended several times from July 2025. It was earlier set for November 15 before being pushed to December 10.

World Bank hails India's fall in extreme poverty

NEW DELHI

India's sharp reduction in poverty over the past decade, driven by sustained economic growth, rising consumption, expanding employment and social protection, offers important lessons for developing countries, a new report has said, after the World Bank said that the share of Indians living in extreme poverty fell to 2.6% in 2023 from 27.1% in 2011.

According to reports in Bangladesh-based media, India lifted around 496 million people out of extreme poverty, more than the population of the US and Russia combined, marking the "fastest poverty declines in the world."

The recent World Bank brief also indicated that, using the lower middle-income poverty line of $4.2 per day, the poverty rate declined to 16.1% from 57.7% over the same period.



The World Bank, however, has cautioned that some recent gains could reflect improvements in measurement alongside genuine welfare improvements.

"But those improvements have not been uniform across regions — in fact, 57% of India's poor population is concentrated in a contiguous belt stretching from Uttar Pradesh to West Bengal," the report said.

Sustained high economic growth was a key driver of poverty reduction along with three other major factors. India maintained resilient growth between 2010 and 2025, with economic expansion averaging over 7% annually during 2022-2025 after recovering from the pandemic-induced contraction.

Extreme poverty in India

2011		2023
27.1% of Indians	▸	2.6% of Indians

"Rising employment, particularly among women, played a significant role behind the impressive poverty reduction record of India during the last decade. Between 2014 and 2024, over 17 crore jobs were created in India, amounting on average 1.7 crore jobs per year. Unemployment in the country dropped from 7.6% in 2015 to 4.2% in 2025," the report noted.

Vembu flags limits of China's 'study, get a job' model



NEW DELHI

Zoho founder Sridhar Vembu on Monday warned that the traditional model of education leading to stable salaried employment is increasingly coming under strain worldwide, arguing that entrepreneurship and self-employment will be essential to address the growing disruption caused by automation and artificial intelligence.

In a post on social media platform X, Vembu responded to a discussion highlighting China's worsening youth employment challenges and said the country offers an important lesson for policymakers globally, including in India.

> *"For decades, young Chinese were promised a simple deal: Study hard. Get a good job. Become richer than your parents. That deal is breaking."*
> **SRIDHAR VEMBU** Zoho

Referring to China's economic trajectory, Vembu noted that for decades young people were encouraged to believe that academic success would translate into secure employment and a better standard of living than their parents enjoyed. However, he said that social contract is beginning to break down despite China's significant economic achievements.

"China is the factory of the world, has impressive technology capabilities across a vast array of sectors and runs a $1.2 trillion merchandise trade surplus and yet is not able to create jobs for a big cohort of her college-educated youth," he added.

"Approximately 70 per cent of all unemployed individuals in the 20-to-24 age group hold university degrees in China," Vembu noted.

"Our modern educational and economic system around the world trains young people for 'steady paycheck' jobs and those jobs are not just not growing, they are under serious challenge due to automation and AI. This problem is about to get worse, not better," he added.

He said widespread entrepreneurial activity was historically a major driver of prosperity, including in the United States before the expansion of large industrial corporations and formal salaried employment became dominant.

FREE JOB SERVICES

Labour Ministry warns jobseekers against fake NCS offers

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Labour and Employment on Monday cautioned jobseekers against fraudulent calls, emails and fake employment offers falsely claiming an association with the National Career Service (NCS), reiterating that all services provided through the government platform are completely free.

In a post on X, the ministry urged candidates to remain vigilant against individuals, organisations and intermediaries demanding money in exchange for employment opportunities.

"Beware of job scams! All NCS services are completely free. Do not pay anyone for registration, applications, interviews, or employment-related services. For more information, visit: https://ncs.gov.in," the ministry stated.

The ministry clarified that candidates are not required to pay any charges for registering on the NCS portal, submitting job applications, interview processing or accessing any other employment-related service.

It also warned jobseekers about misleading communications from websites, employers and individuals falsely claiming to be associated with the National Career Service or the Labour Ministry.

According to a warning published on the official NCS website, certain websites, employers and individuals are allegedly misusing the name and logo of the government employment service to deceive candidates.

The ministry advised jobseekers against making payments to employers or intermediaries to secure employment, stating that the NCS neither endorses nor takes responsibility for such practices.

Candidates have been advised to verify all employment-related information through the official NCS website, www.ncs.gov.in, before sharing personal information, responding to suspicious communications or proceeding with recruitment-related offers.

Jobseekers can contact the NCS helpline at 1514 for assistance.



1514 NCS helpline

1930 cybercrime helpline

Free every NCS service

Quick Read

BNP calls Hasina's passport demand political stunt

DHAKA

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has criticised former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's demand for a passport and national identity card (NID), calling it a political stunt aimed at creating instability in the country. The party questioned the timing of Hasina's demand amid ongoing political developments in Bangladesh.

Rights group condemns Joshua Wong's 10-year sentence

WASHINGTON

The Uyghur Human Rights Project has condemned the 10-year jail sentence handed to Hong Kong activist Joshua Wong, calling for his immediate release. Wong, a prominent pro-democracy activist, has faced legal action linked to his political activities.

Indian Embassy in Azerbaijan celebrates Diwali

BAKU

The Embassy of India in Baku, Azerbaijan, celebrated Diwali with great enthusiasm, bringing the spirit of the festival of lights to the Indian community and local guests. The gathering highlighted the strong cultural ties between India and Azerbaijan, while offering an opportunity for people from different backgrounds to experience Indian traditions.

University probes 'racist' acts outside students' apartment

OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI

The University of Mississippi has launched an investigation after doorbell camera footage allegedly showed three women making racist noises and gestures outside an apartment shared by Black students. In a statement, the university described the behaviour as "offensive, hurtful, and unacceptable" and said it went against the institution's values.

INS Surat reaches Muscat for naval exercise

India and Oman have strengthened their naval partnership as an Indian warship reaches Muscat for joint maritime activities aimed at improving cooperation, coordination, and regional security.



INS Surat at Muscat for the 15th edition of the India-Oman maritime exercise Naseem Al Bahr

Naseem Al Bahr

EDITION
15th

THE NAME MEANS
"Sea Breeze"

INS SURAT ARRIVED
November 8

PHASES
Harbour and sea

MUSCAT

Indian Naval Ship (INS) Surat has arrived in Muscat, Oman, to take part in the 15th edition of the India-Oman maritime exercise, Naseem Al Bahr. The arrival marks another step towards strengthening naval cooperation and improving relations between the two countries.

According to the Ministry of Defence, INS Surat reached Muscat on November 8, 2026. The exercise, whose name means "Sea Breeze", will bring together personnel from the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Oman for professional activities and joint engagements.

The exercise will take place in two phases, covering activities at the harbour and at sea. These activities will include cross-deck visits, operational interactions and sporting events. The programme will give personnel from both navies an opportunity to share their experiences, learn from each other and understand different ways of carrying out naval operations.

The exercise also aims to improve coordination between the two navies.

The visit highlights the long-standing friendship between India and Oman. Both countries have maintained close ties, with defence cooperation playing an important role in their relationship.

The port visit is also in line with the Indian government's MAHASAGAR vision, which stands for Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions. The initiative focuses on cooperation, security and development across different regions.

The latest engagement also builds on earlier discussions between the two countries under the Joint Military Cooperation Committee. The committee held its 13th meeting on November 24, 2025.

Poor hygiene, unsafe water raise concerns at Sindh hospitals



Patients often buy medicines and drinking water from outside

Patients in Sindh's public hospitals face dirty washrooms, unsafe drinking water, medicine shortages, and poor facilities, raising serious concerns about healthcare standards and accountability.

KARACHI

Government hospitals across Pakistan's Sindh province are facing growing concerns over poor hygiene, unsafe drinking water and a lack of basic medical facilities.

Several hospitals in Karachi and other parts of Sindh lack clean washrooms, proper sanitation and safe drinking water.

Several district hospitals reportedly do not have water filtration plants. As a result, patients and their attendants often have to buy drinking water from outside. Even hospitals with filtration systems face problems because of poor maintenance and delayed replacement of filters.

Rizwana Khatoon, a resident of North Karachi, shared her experience at Sindh Government New Karachi Hospital, where her daughter was admitted with a high fever. She said the hospital lacked sufficient drinking water and had dirty washrooms with inadequate water and soap. She also reported bedbugs, insects and unpleasant smells inside the wards.

At Sindh Government Saudabad Hospital, patient Ghulam Shah raised concerns about the shortage of essential facilities despite public spending. He said patients often had to buy medicines and drinking water from outside. He also questioned the cleanliness of water tanks and the quality of food provided at the hospital.

Another patient, Tariq Fareedi, from Sindh Government Liaquatabad Hospital, highlighted the lack of information desks and clear signs. He said elderly patients and visitors from distant areas often struggled to find registration counters, doctors and hospital wards.

The report also noted that nearly 90 per cent of hospitals reportedly lack covered waiting areas for patients' attendants.

COP31 opens in Antalya, urging countries to act on climate



COP31 runs in Antalya, Turkiye, from November 9 to 20

Key issues at COP31

- Climate finance for developing countries
- Cutting greenhouse gas emissions
- Adapting to floods, heatwaves and droughts

ANTALYA

The 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference, known as COP31, began in Antalya, Turkiye, on Monday, bringing together countries to discuss climate change and turn earlier promises into practical action.

The summit will run from November 9 to 20. This year, the main focus is on implementing climate commitments, improving cooperation and finding solutions to the growing effects of global warming.

The meeting comes at a time when countries are facing rising temperatures, extreme weather events and increasing pressure to protect people and the environment.

One of the key issues at COP31 is climate finance. Developing countries need financial support to prepare for climate-related disasters, strengthen public services and move towards cleaner sources of energy. Discussions are expected to focus on how existing financial commitments can be delivered and how funding can reach countries that need it most.

Another important area is the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Countries are under pressure to strengthen their climate plans and make measurable progress towards the goals of the Paris Agreement, which seeks to limit the rise in global temperatures.

The summit will also address climate adaptation and resilience. These efforts aim to help communities prepare for floods, heatwaves, droughts and other climate-related risks.

Turkiye is hosting the conference, while Australia is leading the negotiations under an arrangement between the two countries.

The central message of COP31 is the need to move beyond promises and deliver results.

EU moves to fund Ukraine's urgent winter needs

KYIV

The European Union will activate a special emergency assistance mechanism to provide quick financial support to Ukraine, as Russian strikes continue to affect electricity, water and heating supplies across several regions, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Monday.

Zelenskyy announced the decision after a phone conversation with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. He said the new mechanism would help Ukraine receive funds quickly to meet its most urgent needs. Teams from both sides have already started working on the plan.

According to Zelenskyy, the situation remains difficult in Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Sumy and Donetsk regions, as well as in Kherson. Russian strikes have disrupted essential services, creating additional challenges for residents as the country prepares for the winter season.



Russian strikes continue to affect electricity, water and heating supplies

The Ukrainian president said he and von der Leyen also discussed additional energy and humanitarian assistance. The support is expected to help communities deal with supply problems and prepare for colder weather.

The leaders also discussed Ukraine's efforts to join the European Union. Zelenskyy welcomed the European Commission's latest assessment of the country's progress towards membership. He said opening negotiation clusters and moving forward with the next stages of the process remained important goals.

Diplomatic efforts to end the war were also part of their discussion. Zelenskyy said Ukrainian and European teams had recently held talks in Brussels on a recovery plan and security guarantees for Ukraine.

The two leaders also coordinated their positions ahead of an upcoming meeting in Abu Dhabi, as efforts continue to find a way forward in the conflict.

Taiwan detains party leader over suspected Chinese funding

TAIPEI

Taiwanese authorities have detained Lin Te-wang, founder and chairman of the Taiwan People's Communist Party, over allegations that he received money and instructions from China to influence upcoming local elections.

The Tainan District Prosecutors Office said Lin was suspected of accepting financial support and directions from the Chinese Communist Party to contest the election for ward chief in Xinying District, Tainan. Prosecutors sought his detention under Taiwan's Anti-Infiltration Act and Election and Recall Act, citing concerns that he could flee or destroy evidence.

The case

- **Detained:** Lin Te-wang, the party's founder and chairman
- **Laws cited:** the Anti-Infiltration Act and the Election and Recall Act
- **Also accused:** Chen Zhen-zhou, released on NT$50,000 bail
- **Local polls:** November 28

The Tainan District Court approved the request and ordered Lin to be held without contact with the outside world.

The investigation began after prosecutors in Tainan and Hsinchu received information about possible attempts by foreign forces to influence Taiwan's local elections scheduled for November 28.

Prosecutors also alleged that Lin had directed Chen Zhen-zhou, a member of the party's Central Committee, to contest a ward chief election in Hsinchu City's North District. They suspect Lin accepted foreign funding and later helped finance Chen's campaign.

The investigation further found allegations that the two men arranged fully funded trips to China for eligible voters. Prosecutors suspect these trips may have been intended to influence voters and could amount to vote-buying under Taiwan's election laws.

Authorities also requested Chen's detention. However, the Hsinchu District Court released him on bail of NT$50,000, approximately US$1,525, and ordered him to remain at his registered residence.

However, the allegations remain under investigation, and the accused have not been proven guilty.

Oil falls as Trump signals no fresh Iran strikes

LONDON

Global oil prices fell on Monday after US President Donald Trump indicated that he was unlikely to launch fresh attacks on Iran while talks to end the conflict continued. However, attacks on ships near the Strait of Hormuz kept concerns about global oil supplies alive.

Brent crude futures dropped 75 cents, or 0.75 per cent, to $97.57 per barrel by 1011 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude fell 38 cents, or 0.4 per cent, to $90.45 per barrel, according to Reuters.

Brent crude recorded a sharp decline of 16 per cent last week, marking its biggest weekly fall since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Hopes of a possible peace agreement between Washington and Tehran have encouraged investors, putting further pressure on oil prices.

Analysts said prices were also affected by strong oil supplies from the Middle East and concerns about a growing global surplus. JPMorgan estimated that oil supplies exceeded demand by 1.1 million barrels per day in September, with the surplus expected to rise to 1.4 million barrels per day in October.

Despite hopes for peace, security concerns remain. The Strait of Hormuz is a major route for international oil shipments, and attacks on vessels in the area have raised fears of possible disruptions.

$97.57	$90.45	16%
Brent a barrel, down 75 cents	WTI a barrel, down 38 cents	Brent's fall last week

IRAN HORMUZ PLAN

Iran keeps two-day Hormuz plan open, demands US action

TEHRAN

Iran has said its two-day plan to restore security in the Strait of Hormuz remains on the table, adding that progress depends on the United States meeting its demands. The statement comes amid continued tensions and limited progress in diplomatic efforts between Tehran and Washington.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei made the remarks during a weekly press conference on Monday. According to Iranian media reports, he described the proposal as a reasonable way to resolve the crisis and said security in the important waterway could return within 48 hours if Washington accepts Iran's conditions.

Baghaei said the plan showed Iran's willingness to find a solution through diplomacy. He also urged the United States to make a clear decision, saying positive developments could follow if Tehran's demands were addressed.

Iran has called for an end to hostilities on all fronts, the lifting of the US naval blockade and economic sanctions, and the release of Iranian assets held abroad. Tehran says these steps must be taken before negotiations can move forward.

The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most important shipping routes, carrying a large share of global oil supplies. Any disruption in the waterway can affect energy markets, shipping costs and international trade.

Baghaei rejected criticism from US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who described some of Iran's demands as unreasonable. The Iranian spokesperson argued that his country's conditions were justified and accused Washington of worsening tensions through military action during earlier negotiations.

Meanwhile, diplomatic efforts to ease the crisis have faced difficulties, with talks between the two countries making little progress in recent days.

IN FOCUS

Iran says its two-day plan to restore security in the Strait of Hormuz remains open.

- Tehran links progress to the US meeting its demands, including lifting sanctions and ending the naval blockade.
- Diplomatic efforts remain uncertain, with tensions threatening global oil supplies and shipping routes.

Bhavika Ahire, Anaadi Tagde to lead India U19 teams

NEW DELHI

Wicketkeeper-batter Bhavika Ahire and seam-bowling all-rounder Anaadi Tagde have been appointed captains of India U19 A and India U19 B teams respectively for the upcoming T20 Tri-Series featuring Nepal U19, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced on Monday.

The tournament will be held at the BCCI Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Bengaluru from November 10 to 22. The competition will serve as an important preparation opportunity for India ahead of the 2027 ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup, which will be co-hosted by Bangladesh and Nepal early next year.

India have established themselves as a dominant force in the competition, having won the inaugural 2023 edition and successfully defended their title in 2025. The team will now aim to complete a hat-trick of titles in 2027.

Bhavika, who was part of India's victorious 2025 U19 Women's T20 World Cup squad, will have Mumbai batter Ira Jadhav as her vice-captain in the A team. Shambhavi Rajput has been named the second wicketkeeper, while Ishwari Awarare, another member of the 2025 World Cup-winning squad, will feature in the B team.

Meanwhile, Uma Kashvi has been appointed vice-captain of the B team. Kashvi made headlines after being signed by Delhi Capitals for Rs 10 lakh, becoming the youngest player picked in the Women's Premier League (WPL).

The B squad also includes wicketkeepers Rachita Hatwar and Shreya S. Chawan, opener Deeya Yadav and batting all-rounder Samaira Raghav, who earned a WPL contract with Gujarat Giants. All players selected for the tri-series recently featured in the U19 Women's T20 Challenger Trophy in Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh.



Bhavika Ahire, Anaadi Tagde to lead India U19

- Bhavika Ahire to captain India U19 A; Anaadi Tagde to lead U19 B.
- Ira Jadhav and Uma Kashvi named vice-captains of the respective teams.
- Tri-series featuring Nepal U19 to be held in Bengaluru from November 10 to 22.
- India targeting a third consecutive U19 Women's T20 World Cup title in 2027.

Premier League: Man Utd stun villa with late comeback

LONDON

Manchester United produced a dramatic late comeback to secure a thrilling 4-4 draw against Aston Villa in the Premier League, with Patrick Dorgu and Joshua Zirkzee scoring in second-half stoppage time to rescue a point for the hosts.

United endured a disastrous opening as Alysson put Villa ahead within 59 seconds. Nicolas Jackson extended the visitors' lead four minutes later, capitalising on a rebound after goalkeeper Senne Lammens failed to hold Alysson's initial effort. United responded through Bruno Fernandes, who converted a penalty in the 16th minute after Boubacar Kamara fouled Matheus Cunha. Youri Tielemans then equalised in the 44th minute with a left-footed finish following a pass from Noussair Mazraoui.

Villa regained the lead shortly after half-time when John McGinn converted a penalty in the 48th minute following a foul on Alysson by Diogo Dalot. Leon Goretzka increased the advantage to 4-2 in the 53rd minute, scoring after Leny Yoro's header from McGinn's free-kick struck the crossbar and rebounded into play.



United continued searching for a comeback, with substitute Mason Mount hitting the woodwork. Their efforts finally paid off in the second minute of stoppage time when Zirkzee converted Dorgu's cross to reduce the deficit. Moments later, Dorgu rose above the Villa defence to head home the equaliser, completing a remarkable recovery.

Despite salvaging a point, United remain 18th in the standings and in the relegation, zone heading into the international break, one point above bottom-placed Crystal Palace. Aston Villa occupy 10th position.

Mushfiqur Rahim Becomes First Bangladeshi To Score 7,000 Test Runs

SYLHET

Veteran wicketkeeper-batter Mushfiqur Rahim scripted history on Monday by becoming the first cricketer from Bangladesh to cross the 7,000-run milestone in Test cricket. He achieved the landmark during the second innings of the second Test against the West Indies at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium.

The 39-year-old reached the historic mark during the second session on Day Five when he took a single off West Indies spinner Roston Chase to move to nine runs. Mushfiqur entered the match with 6,957 Test runs and needed 43 more to become the first Bangladeshi batter to reach the milestone.

He had already established himself as the first player from Bangladesh to score 5,000 and 6,000 runs in the longest format. His latest achievement further strengthens his position as one of the country's greatest Test batters.

Mushfiqur is now comfortably ahead of Bangladesh's second-highest Test run-scorer, Mominul Haque, who has accumulated 5,293 runs. Former



Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal follows with 5,134 runs.

The veteran batter contributed 34 runs in the first innings as Bangladesh posted 386 in response to West Indies' 356. He added another 49 in the second innings as the hosts reached 184/4 while chasing a target of 369. Bad light forced an early end to play on Day Five, resulting in a draw.

Mushfiqur is also Bangladesh's most-capped Test cricketer, having represented the country in 107 matches. He remains the only Bangladeshi player to have featured in more than 100 Tests, with Mominul second on the list with 82 appearances.

Since making his Test debut against England at Lord's in May 2005, Mushfiqur has remained a key figure in Bangladesh cricket.

Although he has retired from ODIs and T20Is, he continues to represent the country in Test cricket.

"Reaching 7,000 Test runs is a remarkable achievement that reflects Mushfiqur Rahim's consistency, dedication and longevity in international cricket." – Bangladesh Cricket Supporter.

Manipur CM calls for concerted efforts to preserve indigenous sports

IMPHAL

Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh has called for concerted efforts to promote and preserve the indigenous sports, traditional arts and rich cultural practices of the state's diverse communities.

While attending a demonstration of Naga Indigenous Wrestling (Pyacha) at the Astro Turf Ground in Senapati district on Monday, the Chief Minister drew a comparison between Naga Indigenous Wrestling and the Meitei traditional wrestling form of Mukna.

He observed that different communities have their own distinctive traditional sporting practices which deserve recognition, encouragement and promotion.

The programme was organised by the Senapati District Wrestling Association Manipur (SDWAM). The hilly district is predominantly inhabited by the Naga community.

Recalling his personal interest in martial arts, Khemchand Singh said that he had practised the traditional Meitei martial art of Thang-Ta during his childhood.

He further recalled that in the 1970s, when he was studying in Class IX, he was deeply impressed by Bruce Lee after watching the film 'Enter the Dragon', which inspired him to take up Taekwondo.

Notably, Khemchand Singh was recently conferred the title of Grand Master 9th DAN in Traditional Taekwondo by the Global Traditional Taekwondo Federation (GTTF). He was presented the title by GTTF President Grand Master Jun Lee at the inaugural function of the First Manipur State Poomsae Taekwondo Championship 2026, held at Khuman Lampak Indoor Stadium, Imphal.

Linette dedicates Chennai title to Krakow shooting victims

CHENNAI

Poland's Magda Linette has dedicated her Chennai Open title win to the victims of a mass shooting in Krakow, where at least six people were killed, and more than a dozen others injured when a gunman opened fire in Main Market Square. Linette, who had been the Chennai runner-up in 2022 to Linda Fruhvirtova, won 5-7, 6-1, 6-4 in a summit clash that had been postponed by a day due to adverse weather conditions.

"As much as I'm so happy, it's hard to celebrate because of what happened in Poland, in Krakow," Linette said after the win, as quoted by WTA. "I just want to say that my heart and wishes are with all the victims and those who are hurt. In those tough moments we can really thank and appreciate one another and give that person next to us an extra hug today."

Chennai marked Linette's ninth career final and the first tournament where she has contested multiple finals, but she had a demon to exorcise from her previous title match here. Back in 2022, she led Linda Fruhvirtova 4-1 in the third set of the final, only to lose 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Linette's week in India began with a victory in the longest WTA main-draw match of 2026 so far, a 7-6(3), 5-7, 6-2 marathon over qualifier Aliona Falei in 3 hours and 33 minutes. After a straight-sets win over Moyuka Uchijima in the second round, the 34-year-old then had to come from a set down in her last three matches.

In the quarterfinals, she also trailed Mai Hontama 5-3 in the second set and 4-2 in the decider. In total, she spent 12 hours and 28 minutes on court.

UAE announce Esha Oza-led emerging trophy squad

DUBAI

Hosts United Arab Emirates have announced a 14-member women's squad, led by Esha Oza, for the upcoming ICC Women's Emerging Nations Trophy, which begins in Ajman on November 12.

Wicketkeeper Theertha Satish has been included as the designated wicketkeeper in the squad. The remaining players are Al Maseera Jahangir, Archara Supriya, Heena Hotchandani, Indhuja Nandakumar, Janani Thirukkumaran, Mehul Kulkarni, Rinitha Rajith, Samaira Dharnidharka, Simran Seth, Sashikala Silva, Suraksha Kotte and Uttara Iyer.

The tournament will mark the first major assignment for UAE women's team head coach Oscar Nauhaus, who was appointed last month after Ahmed Raza stepped down to take charge of the senior men's team.

Nauhaus joins the UAE setup from Cricket Namibia, where he served as High Performance Manager, focusing on developing young cricketers and strengthening the national player pathway. He also brings international coaching experience, having guided Namibia's U19 men's team to qualification for the 2024 ICC U19 Men's World Cup. He was also part of Namibia's support staff during the 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

The support staff will include manager Subha Venkataraman, strength and conditioning coach Shyla Alam and physiotherapist Merin Saji.

The expanded tournament features 10 teams divided into two groups. UAE are placed in Group A alongside Sri Lanka, Ireland, Scotland and Papua New Guinea. Group B comprises Pakistan, Bangladesh, Thailand, the Netherlands and Zimbabwe.

Esha's team will begin its campaign against Ireland on November 13 at the Seven Districts Sports Club in Ajman. The match is scheduled to begin at 9 am local time.UAE will subsequently face Scotland on November 15, Sri Lanka on November 16 and Papua New Guinea on November 18. The top three teams from each group will qualify for the Super Six stage, scheduled from November 20 to 23.

TPL to award scholarships to 36 juniors



MUMBAI

Tennis Premier League (TPL) has announced the dates for the 2026 Race to Gold (RTG) Masters, a grassroots initiative that will see promising junior tennis players from six states receive scholarships.

A total of 36 junior players across six states to receive Race to Gold scholarships worth Rs 75,000 each, with two U-14 champions earning the opportunity to travel to the Australian Open 2027 through the newly introduced TPL Road to the Australian Open initiative.

The Race to Gold Masters will take place across three weekends in November; TPL North Zone Masters: November 14–15, DLTA, Delhi, TPL Gujarat Masters: November 21–22, SRT10 Altevol Centre of Excellence, Ahmedabad and TPL Maharashtra Masters: November 28–29, Goregaon Sports Club, Mumbai, featuring U-10, U-12 and U-14 boys' and girls' categories.The scholarships are designed to support young athletes beyond the court by providing tennis equipment, personalised apparel, professional guidance and opportunities to engage with leading Indian tennis icons such as Leander Paes and Rohan Bopanna, as well as top international players.

The 36 recipients will be felicitated during Tennis Premier League Season 8 in Hyderabad in December, with the ceremony integrated into the live broadcast on JioHotstar. Since its launch, the Race to Gold scholarship program has supported 80 young players.

Craig Ervine becomes Zim oldest test centurion

SHARJAH

Zimbabwe batter Craig Ervine created history during the ongoing first Test against Afghanistan at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium, becoming the oldest player from his country to score a Test century. At 41 years and 82 days, Ervine achieved the milestone by registering his fifth Test hundred during the second innings of the match.

Ervine surpassed the previous national record set by teammate Brendan Taylor, who had also achieved the distinction earlier in the same Test. Taylor scored a magnificent 131 off 168 deliveries in Zimbabwe's first innings, becoming the country's oldest Test centurion before Ervine reclaimed the record.

Ervine's achievement also places him among the oldest players to score a Test century in the 21st century. He is now the second-oldest batter to achieve the feat during this period, behind Pakistan's Misbah-ul-Haq, who was 42 years and 47 days old when he scored 114 against England at Lord's in 2016.

ERVINE'S HISTORIC MILESTONE

- Age at century: 41 years, 82 days.
- Test centuries: Five.
- Test runs: Completed 2,000.
- Previous Zimbabwe record: Brendan Taylor.
- Oldest Test centurion this century: Misbah-ul-Haq, aged 42 years and 47 days.
- Zimbabwe's second innings: 372/5 at tea on Day Five.



The century also helped Ervine complete 2,000 runs in Test cricket, making him the seventh Zimbabwean batter to reach the landmark.

Zimbabwe had posted 504 in their first innings, with Taylor scoring 131 and captain Brian Bennett contributing 128. Afghanistan responded with 514, securing a 10-run lead through centuries from Sediqullah Atal (105), Rahmanullah Zadran (113) and Rahmat Shah (173).

In their second innings, Zimbabwe continued their strong batting display. Taylor scored 82, Bennett made 58, while Ervine struck a century and Antum Naqvi contributed 62. At tea on Day Five, Zimbabwe was 372/5, with the match heading towards a draw as only one session remained.

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